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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which of the Interior Department recommendations for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI do you support?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Kraft Mayhem
A woman who had just been suspended from her job opens fire killing two people.

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Heir Apparent
The whole world waits for the unveiling of North Korea's heir apparent, Kim Jong Un.

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Odd Pairing
The idea of Sara Bareilles and Pharrell working on music sounds odd enough.

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'Remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice long after 9/11'

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Fontanilla | Jack | Manglona | Lieto | Winkfield | Emul | Leon Guerrero

»Moment of silence on Sunday night

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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Reporter

Police Officer Joel G. Charfauros of Sinapalo II on Rota has mixed feelings about the pullout of the last U.S. combat troops from Iraq last month. When everyone has gone home to their family, his younger brother isn't going to be one of them.

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Payless payday dismays govt employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For a father of four children, not receiving his government paycheck yesterday could mean no food on the table and disconnected power and water service.

"I am very disappointed. We have bills to pay. They're about to disconnect my power because today is the due date and I don't have a paycheck. I guess my family would just have to accept it. My kids would get hungry," the employee at the Legislature said yesterday. He has been working in government for 13 years.

His two other colleagues with him

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CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, gestures as he calls on other individuals to join him in a group photo after he signed a proclamation declaring September 2010 Cultural Heritage Month, in the governor's conference on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Inos also declared Sept. 18 shall be dedicated to Chief Aghurubw and all traditional chiefs. Also in photo are Carolinian Affairs Office executive assistant Angie Mangarero, seated left, and Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive director Ignacio Demapan, seated right, and other members of the community.

CUC asked to extend grace period for disconnections. PAGE 2
Ten convicted felons stricken off voters' list. PAGE 3

Local

DUE TO PAYLESS PAYDAY

CUC asked to extend grace period for disconnections

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) have asked the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to extend the grace period before disconnecting power, water and wastewater services to customers because payroll checks were not released to many government employees yesterday.

The two senators wrote a letter to CUC assistant executive director Abe Malae on Thursday, requesting for relief on behalf of many CUC customers.

Due to cash shortage, the central government was able to release paychecks only to critical service employees yesterday, including police officers, corrections officers, firefighters, doctors and nurses.

The rest may get their paychecks as early as Wednesday next week, but this still depends on cash collection.

"We therefore request your consideration for government employees who, because their pay is delayed by up to a week, face disconnection. Should these employees request your assistance to temporarily prevent a disconnection, we ask you to work with these consumers to the greatest extent possible," Ayuyu and Crisostimo told Malae.

Ayuyu said as of yesterday afternoon, they have yet to receive a response from Malae on the matter.

"We're asking CUC not to disconnect services and wait until employees get their paychecks. Many residents already are due for disconnection [yesterday] but they don't have money to pay," Ayuyu said in a phone interview.

The Executive Branch has said there may be more payless paydays in the coming weeks because of lack of revenue coming in. Moreover, the government may shut down if a new budget is not passed before the start of Fiscal Year 2011 on Oct. 1.

"Many government workers with families earn just enough every two weeks to cover their needs, a delay in pay by just two or three days means the inability to cover basic needs like food and water or power," the senators told Malae.

This is the second time in CNMI history that government payroll has been delayed. The first one was on June 18; most employees received their checks a few days later, on June 21.

USDOE wants PSS' response on audit findings

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education wants the Public School System to address the findings of the fiscal year 2009 audit report conducted by an independent auditor on PSS to ensure that funding from the federal government are not jeopardized.

The Board of Education disclosed this yesterday during its meeting where it also adopted its formal response to the USDOE letter.

According to Jerry Guerrero, PSS internal auditor, the federal agency sent its letter at the end of last month. It wants PSS and the board to provide it a response to the audit findings.

Herman T. Guerrero, chairman of the committee on fiscal and personnel affairs, said the USDOE letter of concern was discussed at this week's committee meeting where a response was also endorsed for the board's approval.

The board did not discuss the content of its letter to the USDOE during yesterday's meeting.

Jerry Guerrero was appointed to be the lead person who will specifically work on the audit findings, the biggest concern of which focused on travel.

"I would hate to see PSS placed on high-risk [status] because of these findings. So we're bringing the internal auditor to the board as the lead person [for this task]," said Herman Guerrero, adding that PSS is now in the process of addressing the audit findings.

Guerrero said the board will examine the individual findings in the audit report.

As part of its solution, the board adopted yesterday proposed regulations governing commuter travel and travel outside CNMI.

Saipan Tribune earlier uncovered the 13 total findings in the PSS 2009 audit report. These included, among others, PSS failure to adhere to established travel policies and procedures.

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Arriola found to have shown misconduct in another case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court found yesterday that disbarred lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola had demonstrated misconduct in another case by collecting a $1,000 retainer fee from a client despite never filing the client's bankruptcy petition.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that Arriola's conduct violated the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Wiseman ordered the lawyer to pay his former client, Rodora Marzan, the $1,000 she gave him, together with prejudgment interest at the rate of 9 percent.

The judge directed Arriola to pay disciplinary counsel Thomas E. Clifford attorney's fees and any costs for the prosecution of the case.

He asked Clifford to submit his attorney's fees and costs within 10 days.

"Prior to any re-admission to practice law before the courts of the Commonwealth, respondent shall provide proof that he has fully paid the amounts due Ms. Marzan and the disciplinary counsel, together with all applicable interest," Wiseman said.

The judge said that Arriola, if he has not already done, shall prepare and send a notice to any and all of his clients informing them of his disbarment.

If Arriola had already sent the notices, Wiseman said that he must show proof to the court in the case involving Marzan.

The disciplinary case was heard on Aug. 11, 2010. Clifford appeared as the appointed disciplinary counsel. Arriola did not appear.

Despite Arriola's absence, the proceeding continued because Arriola filed a consent to judgment/waiver of appearance. This means that Arriola waived his right to appear at the hearing and consented to judgment being entered against him in this case.

In his order issued yesterday, Wiseman said he accepts the allegations in the complaint.

Wiseman said that Arriola was not reasonably diligent in his representation of Marzan in that more than a year passed and he never filed the bankruptcy petition that he agreed to file.

The judge said Arriola's conduct violated the Model Rules of Professional Conduct when he failed to keep Marzan informed of his suspension and that he never responded to her inquiry.

Wiseman said Arriola demonstrated misconduct by failing over the course of more than one year to pursue the representation; failing to keep the client informed; and most notably, failing to return the $1,000 retainer fee to Marzan.

On Wednesday, Wiseman disbarred Arriola from practicing in CNMI courts, following his conviction in federal court of stealing over $600,000 from a deceased's estate.

Ten convicted felons stricken off voters' list

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has removed 10 names from its voters list for the Nov. 2 polls after finding out that these people had prior convictions.

Executive director Robert A. Guerrero said the commission received the names of convicted felons from both federal and local courts.

A few more people are expected to be stricken off the list as names of those convicted are periodically transmitted to the commission.

"We received about 10 names so far…and all have been informed about their removal from the list," said Guerrero, adding that these are already reflected in the total number of registered voters.

The registration for the November polls closed on Sept. 3 with 16,601 voters in the CNMI, including absentee voters.

Guerrero said the commission's employees regularly check the courts and the Department of Public Health for updates on deceased persons who may still be on the voters list.

To date, DPH has not transmitted any certifications yet, he said.

Guerrero said no timeline is set for these two requirements so long as the commission receives the certifications before Election Day.

The commission also expects to receive 17,000 ballots for the Nov. 2 polls from a local vendor this Monday.

Guerrero said the first batch of ballots will be sent to absentee voters next week.

Based on the agency's website, 127 have already asked for absentee ballots and the commission has until Oct. 8 to receive more requests.

Only those who request the commission for absentee ballots will get one.

Guerrero anticipates about 2,000 absentee voters in this special election based on last year's general poll.

There are four candidates in the November polls—the Republican Party's Juan N. Babauta, the Covenant Party's Joseph Camacho; the Democratic Party's Jesus Borja; and independent candidate and incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

Voters will also vote on three legislative initiatives.

SSHS swimming pool project gets go signal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education approved yesterday the construction of a swimming pool at the Saipan Southern High School.

The pool is expected to help not only the students and youths in Koblerville but the Saipan community as well.

Former SSHS principal Craig Garrison first proposed the swimming pool project with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. last year.

The housing agency, through its yearly community development block grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development, approved this year a $200,000 funding for the project.

During yesterday's discussion, board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita expressed concerns about the potential cost PSS would incur from the project. She voted no to the proposal; the rest of the board voted yes.

PSS expects to incur some $7,000 only in additional costs to build the pool—an amount that Blanco-Maratita finds hard to believe, citing daily operation and maintenance costs.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, however, the pool would be another venue for students to become physically active.

She told the board that PSS also believes the pool would enhance students' capability and potential to excel in swimming.

Acting chair Marylou S. Ada cited the last Micronesian Games, when swimmers got the most number of medals for the CNMI.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero said that SSHS is planning to use its educational tax credit to sustain the operation and maintenance of the swimming pool.

Once operational, the pool would be open to the community and organizations for a minimal fee.

"This will become a revenue-generating project for SSHS because the school would be charging a minimal fee from teams and groups that want to use the facility," said Guerrero.

He said the $7,000 additional cost would only be used to procure equipment and facility maintenance.

SSHS acting principal Jesse M. Tudela said yesterday that they will wait for the transmittal of the board's decision before they can proceed with negotiations for its construction.

Tudela credited Garrison for coming up with the project for SSHS. He is confident it would greatly help students and prevent future drowning incidents. He supports the idea of offering swimming lessons next year as part of the school's curriculum.

Ex-lawmaker gets 2-day prison term for marijuana possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday imposed a two-day prison term on former representative Pedro P. Castro, who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of marijuana.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Castro to one year in prison, all suspended except for two days, for illegal possession of controlled substance, with credit for the two days he had already served in jail.

This means the 63-year-old Castro will not serve any jail time anymore.

He will, however, be on one year of probation and required to perform 60 hours of community service.

Castro was ordered to pay probation and court assessment fees. He will also forfeit the firearm authorities seized from him.

There will be a review hearing on Jan. 5, 2010 to determine whether Castro is complying with the terms and conditions of his sentence.

In accepting the plea agreement, Wiseman said he also took into consideration Castro's lack of criminal history.

When asked why the government offered such a lenient sentence to Castro, assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher explained that the plea agreement with Castro is a better offer, considering the court's recent ruling to suppress the evidence obtained against two suspects in a warrantless search of their property.

Gallagher was referring to Wiseman's recent decision to suppress the evidence obtained by police officers against a father and son during a warrantless search of their property in As Matuis for allegedly cultivating marijuana plants.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Castro with illegal possession of a firearm, trafficking of controlled substance, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Castro, represented by lawyer Victorino Torres, pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charges were dismissed.

The case arose from a March 17, 2010, incident on Saipan, when Castro was found in possession of marijuana.

Members of the Department of Public Safety and CNMI Customs Joint Drug Enforcement Task Force had conducted surveillance operations on March 16 and 17 at Castro's farm in Marpi after receiving information that he has been cultivating and selling marijuana.

Detective Sean White stated in court that when Castro arrived at his farm on March 17, he was seen arranging the marijuana plants and mumbling something to the plants.

Task Force members then approached and questioned Castro about the plants.

White said they found 41 marijuana plants and recovered a .410 shotgun from a shack in the farm.

During a subsequent search at Castro's residence in San Antonio, White said the officers seized 21 bags of packed marijuana.

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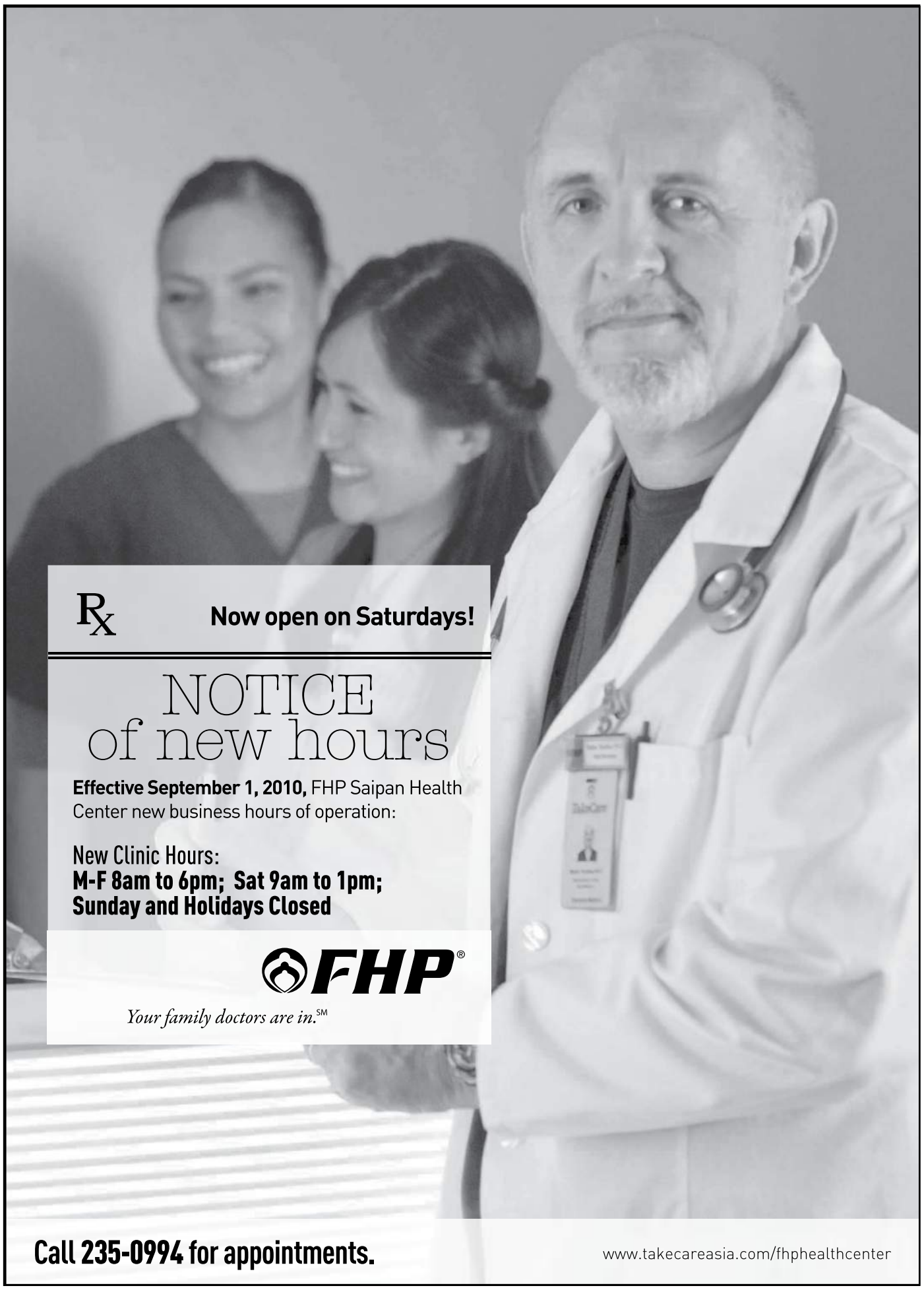
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CNMI to receive $8 million to support education jobs

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced yesterday that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive $8 million to support education jobs.

"There is a huge sense of urgency to get these funds out the door. I commend Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for being one of the first to submit their application and thank our team at the department for making funds available within a matter of days," said Duncan. "These education dollars will help Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands keep thousands of teachers in the classroom working with our students this school year."

The $10 billion education fund will support education jobs in the 2010-11 school year and be distributed to states by a formula based on population figures. States can distribute their funding to school districts based on their own primary funding formula or districts' relative share of federal Title I funds.

Over the last two years, the department has been able to support 300,000 education jobs through stimulus funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. At this time, seven states have drawn down 100 percent of previously allocated jobs funding, while 18 states total have drawn down 80 percent or more.

A July report from the independent Center on Education Policy found that 75 percent of school districts that received stimulus funds expect to cut teaching positions in the upcoming school year. ***(PR)***

Use of child restraints up by 7 percentage points

The use of safety seats and seat belts for children increased by 7 percentage points in 2009 compared to the previous year, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

Police officer Regino Celis said that, based on a CNMI survey, the use of child restraints was up at 83 percent in 2009, from 76 percent in 2008.

Celis disclosed the survey results in yesterday's proclamation signing declaring Sept. 19 to 25 as Child Passenger Safety Week, and Sept. 25 as CNMI Seat Check Saturday.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who signed the proclamation, urged the people to reduce injuries and the tragic loss of life by buckling themselves up and every child "on every trip, every time."

Inos expressed himself satisfied with the increasing use of child restraints.

"Guys keep up the good work. Let us all go out and help the community," Inos urged the DPS personnel who attended the proclamation signing at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Celis said DPS will have certified child passenger safety technicians available to provide free onsite child safety seat inspections at various times and locations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In the U.S., motor vehicle traffic crash is reportedly the leading cause of death for children ages 3 and older.

This year in the CNMI, DPS cited one fatality for not wearing a seatbelt. Police said a 60-year-old man was killed when he lost control of his vehicle and slammed into a concrete sign along Beach Road last month. He was not wearing a seatbelt. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Marianas Grazing Academy and Livestock Workshop II on Saipan

The Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy will host another series of workshops on the island of Saipan on Sept. 23-25, 2010. The workshops will be held in Room D-1 at Northern Marianas College's As Terlaje campus. Registration begins at 7:30am with instructional activities to follow from 8am to 3:30pm each day.

The Academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops, which require no registration or participation fee, will cover various topics, such as mobile slaughter facilities, reproductive management, grazing animal behavior, animal handling facilities, range and pasture animal nutrition, ruminant digestion, animal health and management, and herd management. Other activities also include farm visits to demonstration sites, field activities, and discussion on industry issues.

The Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between the Northern Marianas College- Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service Livestock Improvement Program, and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam, seeks to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

The Academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

To register for the workshops or for more information, contact Claus Bier on Saipan at 234-3691, or Lauwrence Duponcheel at 433-0639 and Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-2576 on Tinian. To learn more about the Marianas Grazing Academy (MGA), visit www.marianasgrazingacademy.org.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program. ***(NMC)***

REMEMBER

From Page 1

"On one side, I'm glad that the troops are now out of harm's way. The sad part is that it took a while before the pullout happened. Had it happened earlier, my brother would still be alive today," he said yesterday.

Three years after the death in Iraq of his younger brother, the late Army Spc. Joe Junior G. Charfauros, he still misses him so much.

"He would crack jokes and we would all laugh. But I always admire his ideals. He was a responsible brother, son, husband, father, friend," Charfauros told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Charfauros was one of four U.S. soldiers killed on June 20, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq following injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device that blew off near their vehicle. The soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Steward, Georgia.

Three years later, in July this year, the older Charfauros's first cousin, the late Marine Cpl. Dave Michael Maliksi Santos, also passed away while serving in Afghanistan. He was allegedly murdered by a fellow Marine.

'Ultimate sacrifice'

For many, Sept. 11, 2001 conjures the images of the crumbling Twin Towers in New York, people jumping to their death to escape the burning buildings, people running for their lives away from ground zero, the Pentagon building burning, and a plane crash in Pennsylvania.

But the older Charfauros said when people remember the terror attacks and its victims, they should also not forget about those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to help preserve freedom for the people of the United States and its territories, and the people of other nations.

"The 9/11 attacks were the reason why we sent our troops to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. If not for the attacks on U.S. soil, we wouldn't have gone to two wars. People should not forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, not only for us but also for other countries. That's my belief," the older Charfauros said.

In October 2001, the U.S. and Great Britain invaded Afghanistan in response to the terrorist attacks launched in the U.S.

Two years later, a U.S.-led coalition also went into Iraq in 2003, overthrowing the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein, but left more than 4,400 American service members and tens of thousands of Iraqis dead.

Among those who lost their lives to defend freedom, liberty and justice for all were 14 men and women from the CNMI.

Six of them, including the younger Charfauros, perished in 2007.

Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, the officer-in-charge of the Department of Public Safety's Professional Training and Development or the Police Academy, said every time his nephew would prepare for his deployment, the whole family would pray for his safe return.

His nephew, the late Army SSgt. Wilgene Lieto, didn't return to the CNMI alive. On Oct. 31, 2005, he and fellow CNMI resident Army Spc. Derence W. Jack were killed during a patrol mission in Balad, Iraq.

"To this day, we offer prayers for those we lost in the war. And people should always remember that there were those who died to make sure we still have our freedom today. We should not forget about them," said Leon Guerrero, who is also the commander of the CNMI Explosives Response Team.

Senate clerk Doris Bermudes, who is related to the late Army Spc. Derence W. Jack, said 9/11 will always be a somber reminder of the sacrifices made by those who served and are still serving in the war against terror.

Lt. Kevin L. Aldan, of the DPS Fire Division, echoed Leon Guerrero's sentiment to not forget those who lost their lives in the wars against terror.

"They gave their lives for us so we should continue to honor them," he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said his administration and the people of the Commonwealth offer solemn prayers to the innocent victims and rescuers who perished in the 9/11 attacks.

Today marks the ninth anniversary of those attacks.

"Over the course of the past nine years, our Commonwealth has since laid to rest 14 of our own homegrown heroes. They were sons and daughters of the Northern Mariana Islands, but more importantly, they are brave soldiers and defenders of our freedom. Truly, they will never be forgotten," Fitial said in a statement yesterday.

He and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos urge everyone in the CNMI to join them in remembering the courage, valor and sacrifice of all the men and women "who continue to be in harm's way so that each one of us can continue to embrace the virtues of freedom and liberty."

"We must remember every brave man and woman who died in honor. We must always remember every family that still lives in grief. We must always remember," Fitial said.

'Moment of silence'

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will hold a moment of silence and a brief ceremony on Sunday night to mark the ninth anniversary of the terror attacks.

CPA Port Police chief Jordan Kosam said yesterday that the ceremony will be held at 9:30pm on Sunday in front of the Saipan International Airport.

"It is our tribute to all the fire fighters, police officers, EMS officers and those who perished during those tragic events," Kosam said.

The ceremony includes a moment of silence and playing of taps.

Kosam said he was the CPA Ports Police duty shift supervisor when 9/11 happened.

"It was right before midnight when a lieutenant told us that the Twin Towers were hit by a plane. Within 30 minutes, all CPA officials were here. It was unbelievable. It was the first time that kind of attack happened on U.S. soil," he said.

Kosam said that fateful day changed the traveling public's view of the world. It also made them more safety conscious and more aware of their environment.

Besides Charfauros, Santos, Lieto and Jack, the 10 of 14 men and women from the CNMI who perished while serving in the wars against terror include: Army Sgt. Yihgyh "Eddie" L. Chen (April 4, 2004), Army Sgt. Jesse J. Castro (Dec. 6, 2006), Marine LCpl Adam Q. Emul (Jan. 29, 2007), Army SPC Leeroy A. Camacho (Feb. 9, 2007), Army PFC John D. Flores (May 3, 2007), Army PFC Victor M. Fontanilla (May 17, 2007) Navy Seaman Anamarie San Nicolas Camacho (Oct. 22, 2007), Army Sgt. Brian S. Leon Guerrero (July 10, 2008), Army SSgt. Julian F. Manglona (Oct. 9, 2008), and Air Force SrA Audra P.M. Winkfield (June 19, 2009).

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), whose brother-in-law was seriously injured while fighting in the war against terror, said 9/11 "touched all of us not only as U.S. citizens but also as human beings."

His brother-in-law is Army Sgt. Nazario Borja, who was severely wounded during a mortar attack on a military base in Mosul, Iraq in May 2004. Mortar shrapnel hit his chest, abdomen and leg.

"It gave us deeper understanding that life is not infinite and we must utilize it to its full potential. Every time I see my brother-in-law, I thank the Lord he's with us. We also pray for those who are no longer with us," Conner added.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

during the interview hoped the government had acted sooner to prevent a payless payday.

"All of us are affected. This is very hard on us who are paid so little and affected the most. This is too much for us," he said.

If he could have his way, he said he would ask the government to beef up its collection efforts to go after those who, for example, owe the Commonwealth Health Center or the Department of Finance a lot in taxes, fees and hospital billings.

Another Capital Hill employee said the payless payday comes at one of the worst times, considering that public schools opened just this week. The Gualo Rai resident said other bills will have to wait to make sure she would be able to feed her family.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview yesterday, reiterated that the earliest time that many government employees could receive their paper checks is on Wednesday.

This depends on whether the government will be able to collect some $1.4 million in fees and taxes.

Inos said no funding is expected to be reprogrammed from independent government agencies such as the Commonwealth Development Authority or the Department of Public Lands to address the shortage of cash for payroll.

"But we're still hoping that by Wednesday, we'll be able to pay the rest of the employees," he told reporters after signing a proclamation yesterday declaring September 2010 Cultural Heritage Month.

The government collected only some $1.5 million to pay for the salaries of those in critical service positions such as doctors, nurses, police officers, corrections officers and firefighters.

The Fitial administration has prioritized bond and scholarship payments totaling some $2.9 million, over payroll of non-essential government employees.

This was the second time in CNMI history that government payroll was delayed. The first one was on June 18; most employees received their checks a few days later, on June 21.

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- Chopsuey — $1.89 /PACK
- Sinigang / Pakbet / Nilaga — $1.50 /PACK

SEAFOODS • GROCERIES • BEVERAGES

- OB Beer
- Cass Beer
- Saan Soju
- Chum-Churum
- Sam Da Soo Water 500 ML.
- Sam Da Soo Water 2 LITER
- Lotte Icis Water 500 ML.
- Sugar — BROWN / WHITE
- Oil Fish Sliced — $3.50 LB.
- All Round Cakes — 20% OFF
- Lotte Lets Be Mild Coffee
- Bear Flour
- Maxwell House Coffee Mix — 240g 20 sticks / 600g 50 sticks / 1.2 kg. 100 sticks
- Lotte Choco Pie — 6 PACKS / 12 PACKS
- Butane Gas — $19.99 CS.

Town House SHOPPING CENTER

School Supplies

School Bags — $7.99 - $17.99

Back to School SALE

Ladies Sandals — $10.00

Girls Sandals — $6.99

- Ladies Shorts — 3 for $10.00
- Ladies & Mens Jacket — $10.00 - $12.00
- Big Women Blouse — $8.99 - $9.99
- Boys Pants — $8.99
- Mens Pants — $12.00 - $14.00
- Ladies Blouse — $9.99
- Men's T-Shirts — $4.99 - $5.99
- Kids Blouse — 3 for $10.00
- Boys T-Shirts — 3 for $10.00
- Bras (Assorted) — $3.00 - $5.99
- Men's Shoes — $15.00 - $22.00
- Ladies Pants & Capri Pants — 2 for $18.00
- Men's Shorts — 2 for $18.00
- Boys Shorts — $8.00 - $8.99
- Ladies Bags — $10.00 - $15.00

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Case for immigration is a case for America

By CURTIS TATE
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

There's no shortage of fear or anger in today's immigration debate. The discussion has become absurd.

Building a wall. Restricting visas. Enacting laws that treat anyone who looks different with suspicion. Changing the Constitution to end birthright citizenship.

Hostility toward immigrants isn't new. However, it's not now and it's never been America at its best.

Here's a little perspective on immigration from a son and grandson of immigrants.

We reached a sad milestone in my family this summer when my grandfather died at the age of 91. He was a civilian translator for the U.S. government when he, my grandmother, my mother and her siblings came to America from Vietnam in October 1967. They weren't just visitors: They came here to stay.

While there's little doubt that it was a good time for them to leave their war-torn native country, my grandfather always insisted that he simply wanted his children, and later, his grandchildren, to have access to the wealth of opportunities America offered.

Grandpa's foresight enabled my family to find success as U.S. citizens. We're here because of him, and I'm proud to carry his legacy. I find it abhorrent that the same country that embraced my family 43 years ago would tell others that they should go home.

This doesn't sound like America, and it's most certainly not the America that earned my grandfather's devotion. He loved this country as much as anyone born here.

Those who want to seal America off to newcomers threaten to undermine what makes the country special: Its openness, its diversity and its entrepreneurial spirit. Immigrants helped build America and helped it flourish.

It's hard to imagine, for example, completing the transcontinental railroad without immigrants. Or running the garment factories and automobile assembly lines or raising gleaming skyscrapers without the millions who came ashore from other places.

Today, U.S. technology companies and research institutions benefit enormously from immigrants with valuable skills in science and engineering. They, in turn, bolster the economy and attract more talented workers.

Since 9/11, however, visa restrictions have sharply reduced the entry of such skilled foreign workers. Those who do come to the United States now feel less welcome here.

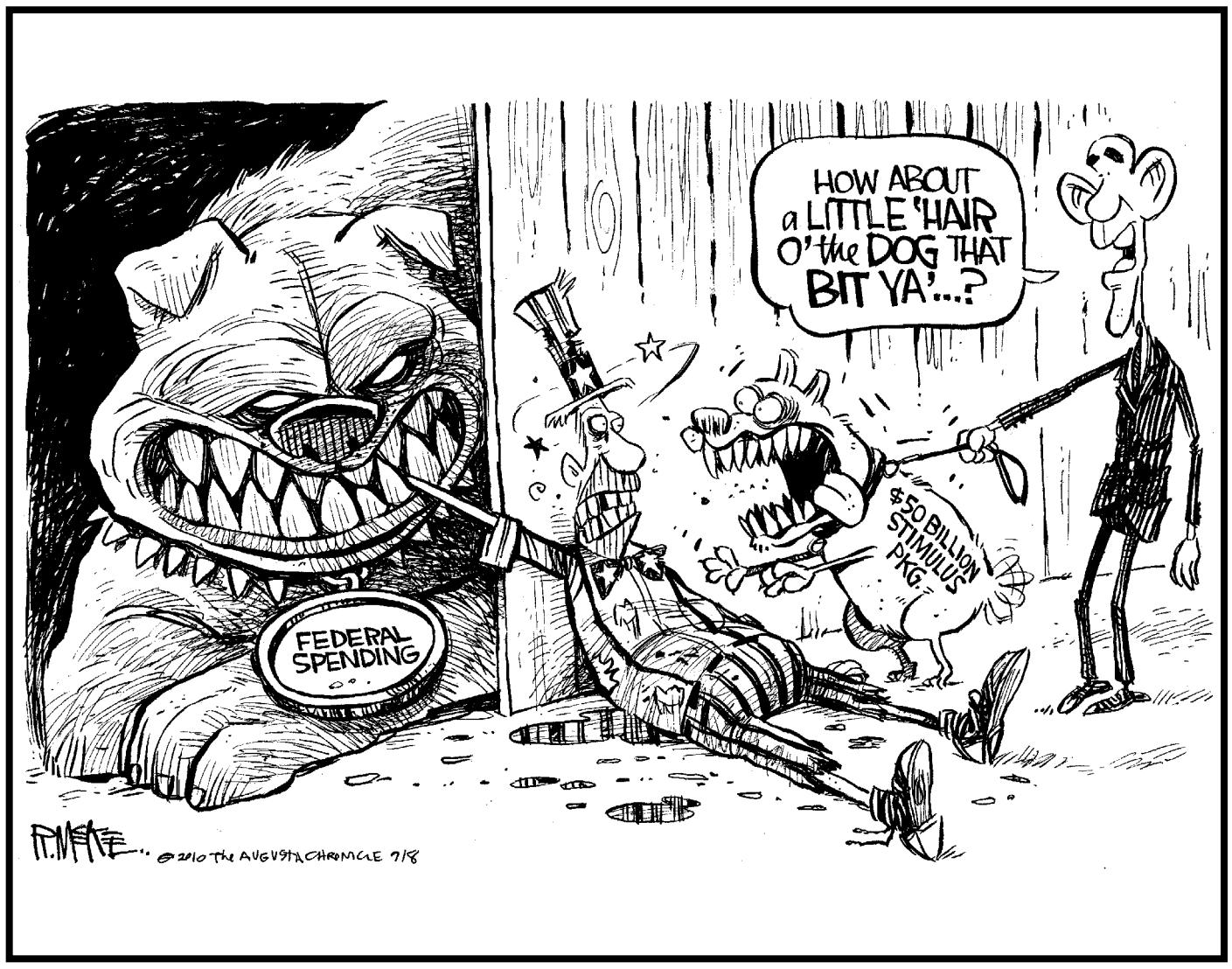
If we shut the door on them, it's our loss and somebody else's gain.

China just passed Japan as the world's No. 2 economy, and the No. 1 economy (the United States) can't remain so if it treats every potential immigrant like a potential criminal.

Some people enter the country illegally, and those who commit serious crimes should be deported. However, most undocumented immigrants aren't hard criminals. They share my grandfather's desire for better opportunities, as well as improved lives for themselves and their families.

America needs immigrants to prosper and remain competitive in a global economy. The day laborers of today could give rise to the scientists, engineers, teachers, doctors and business leaders — or presidents — of tomorrow.

See CASE on Page 7



Our 9/11 Up-Against-ness

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The image of the NYC World Trade Center twin towers collapsing after two hijacked jets rammed into its structures on 9/11 has become iconic to the American imagination. It occasions either a curse of the dark night of the soul that the incident occasions, or welcome the promise of renewal offered as the phoenix rises from the ashes. The same event proceeds to divergent perspectives. The Cordoba renaissance Center is the creepy mosque on Ground Zero, and Park51 to developers is the House of the devil incarnate to not an insignificant number of Christians.

German theologian Rudolph Bultmann, reflecting on the cataclysm of WWI, wrote an essay in 1931 titled, *The Crisis of Faith,* continuing the Greek tradition of "God is not a person but a personification of reality" characterizing Poseidon relative to the oceans, Zeus to Mt. Olympus' transcendence, and Athena to wisdom. The hot wind of the desert, *ruah* to the Hebrews to designate spirit, becomes an experience of lostness and grace, the dune and the oasis, that evolved into the unmentionable YHWH (sounds like a surprised *yah!* resigned in a trail of *weh!)* and the conviction that "just the way life is"—that which is, is/I-am-who-I-am (Yahweh)—is the supreme reality, and there is no other. To escape from it is to trade in the commerce of delusions and illusions—to inhabit mirages that momentarily prop our imagination but eventually spells our disease and doom.

Bultmann named that reality thus: *It is God who makes us finite, who makes a comedy of our care, who allows our longing to miscarry, who casts us into solitude, who sets a limit to our knowing and doing, who calls us to responsibility, and who fills us with guilt when we fall short. But it is also God who allows us to experience the gift of life, who drives us to care; who fills our hearts with love and trust and gratitude, who gives us knowledge and the strength to work, and who blesses us with the seemingly never-ending dance between self-interest and responsibility to others.* Not exactly the gentle grandpa Santa-in-the-sky personification!

Ignore the God-talk and focus on the experience of finitude and gratitude. We all have the experience of having the whole rug pulled off from under our feet, find ourselves hanging over the abyss or falling down the Marianas trench, left with nothing but the freedom to decide on how to relate to our given situation. In the language of faith, the fundamental life-decision we make determines the quality of our living.

Since the '60s, that experience of total annihilation that promises total rebirth was referred to as our Up-Against-ness! It is never a welcomed occurrence, in the first instance, and almost universally, it reflexively and quickly deteriorates into the blame game. The garment industry's sunset cruise in the CNMI is blamed on the Feds, Vietnam on Jane and Kerry, and 9/11 on mosques and minarets. "Who lost China?" was the question asked in post-1949 America, and we continue to build straw persons to slay so that we can feel better. Nazis burned Bibles; we set the Quran to methane!

At the personal level, whether it is the sudden loss of income, the collapse of a marriage, the dashing of a hope long held but no longer tenable, the incidence of cancer, or the sudden completion of a loved one's life, or even just ordinary maturity, in changes at puberty on to menopausity (didn't coin this one, really), we can never accept reality as it is; we need someone to blame, or we devise and design elaborate escape mechanisms to shield us from pain and can ignore the truth. Alas, the grass is greener elsewhere.

Building castles in the sky, we have become good at. Life has been turned to an endless head-trip, and there are too many rooms in the internal castle to hide from and forget the impinging real. We turn our existence into a roller coaster ride of our own Disneyworld. Entertainment offers utopian la-la-land abetted by the euphoria of pharmacology of laced ice and its cousins. We find ways to get high on getting high!

The up-against-ness in our lives never goes away, or ceases. It comes and goes until the day we die. We can continue to rant and rave, a preferred political stance these days, or we can evolve and create, our human destiny, accepting our finiteness with gratitude.

This last is crucial to my journey. It was UN GenSec Dag Hammarskjold *Markings* who dropped this seltzer into my tonic: *"the way chose you and you must be grateful."* Grateful? Dag's plane went down in the Congo under mysterious circumstances. The best I could do was to be a stubborn stoic, heroic in the midst of life that was neither fair nor game. But reality kept impinging, and I kept getting the demand to either deny or accept. It grew on me - the practice and the feeling. As a colleague put it recently, in the choice that he made of accepting the acceptance that reality always provide, on grateful surrender, "I was not grateful because I was happy; I was happy because I was grateful."

9/11 is a day like no other that life has offered us in our denials and complacencies as our Up-Against-ness. We effect change not by hanging on to denials but in gratitude of acceptance. My email tagline remains unchanged: *All that has been, thanks! All that will be, yes! All that is, let it be!* The *Amen* corner may now respond!

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The cantankerous cure

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Rodriguez, a columnist for the Times' *opinion pages, is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation. E-mail Rodriguez at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.*

Australian philosopher Simon Longstaff hopes Westerners are nearing the end of what he calls a long age of forgetting. Even in the midst of a digital revolution that's making it ever more difficult for us to delete traces of our individual pasts, Longstaff, the head of the St. James Ethics Centre in Sydney, thinks forgetting who we are collectively is the most powerful threat to Western societies.

No, he's not advocating a Glenn-Beck-style "restoration" or pining away for some glorious lost era that's been stolen from us by some internal enemy. He simply thinks that in the course of hundreds — even thousands — of years, Westerners have forgotten the essence of the ideas on which many of our institutions were founded, be it the corporation, the church, the university or the media.

It's not that we've necessarily lost respect for such institutions but that we're now more aware of their trappings than their essence. The brilliant ideas that gave birth to them are now covered in layers of custom and practice, pomp and circumstance. Something that might have been born of pure insight — an aha! moment, if you will — eventually evolves into institutional structure and form. It develops doctrine and rules and, perhaps worse yet, interests to be protected. It may even give rise to its own architecture, literally: elaborate cathedrals, pompous parliaments, sturdy neoclassical banks. As this happens, we become more fascinated by these institutions' outward form. We gradually forget what they are supposed to be about.

This plays out in a variety of ways. Longstaff sees leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, an institution founded to spread the Gospel of Jesus—who taught that love is more important than institutions and their laws—responding to the sexual abuse scandal by putting its hierarchy and practices above love. He sees players in the financial markets, which were founded to facilitate transactions between parties in the real economy, forgetting their purpose and becoming more interested in making deals with one another. He sees professors at universities—institutions meant to introduce students to the wide world of learning—undermining that ideal by fragmenting knowledge into mutually unintelligible specializations. He sees the media falling away from its purpose of helping citizens to make informed decisions and becoming more interested in tripping up candidates and turning politics into a horse race.

And what does he suggest will get us out of this amnesic stupor? Dangerous ideas. Plausible yet discomfiting notions that force us to consciously ask why our institutions exist and what they should accomplish. He believes that we need to engage ideas that threaten us, threaten everything, in order to find out what we really believe and why.

To that end, Longstaff is one of the founders of a two-day Festival of Dangerous Ideas in Sydney, a sort of countercultural version of the decidedly establishment annual Ideas Festival in Aspen, Colo. Now in its second year, this fall's confab will feature the likes of Pakistani British writer Tariq Ali arguing that al-Qaeda has so changed the world that the West needs to take a lesson, an Australian economist on how economic growth is actually bad for people, and a local writer and an arts administrator attempting to demolish the notion that art makes for a better society (they're for art for art's sake).

If society truly grappled with uncomfortable notions, Longstaff said, "what I suspect is that many times we might come up with answers identical to those forged by our ancestors. The difference will be that for the first time — sometimes in centuries — the answers will be ours, not theirs. We'd know why we do things, and that alone would confer new vitality to our institutions."

Glenn Beck and the science of crowd counts

By LAWRENCE KRAUSS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Lawrence Krauss is director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Question: What do Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" extravaganza, held on the Washington Mall on Aug. 28, and a test for male infertility have in common?

Answer: If you do your counting wrong for either of them, you can come to wildly inappropriate conclusions.

When asked how large the crowd at his rally was, Beck offered a range of 300,000 to 650,000 and, after the fact, has reportedly settled on 500,000. These are quite impressive numbers, and they've been widely quoted. One might, however, be forgiven for suspecting that Beck had reason to guess high, in order to magnify the significance of his attempt to "restore" God to the American political arena, and the wide range of Beck's estimate might make one wonder where it comes from.

Skepticism is not, of course, the sole province of politics. It is at the heart of science, and the first question a scientist might ask is where's the empirical evidence for this or any crowd estimate.

Counting crowds has a long tradition of controversy and inherent inaccuracy. Published estimates of crowds at President Obama's inauguration, for example, ranged from 800,000 to 4 million. Clearly, when it comes to such large numbers of people, no one can count every head. So is it even possible to make reliable empirical estimates? It is if you do it the way doctors determine whether men are infertile.

An average male in the United States produces about 60 million sperm per milliliter of semen. No one, of course, counts all the sperm. Rather, doctors count the number of sperm in a minute sample, which is assumed to be representative. They then divide by the volume of the sample to get the density of sperm, which can then be multiplied to estimate the amount in any given volume.

Applying a similar method, based on detailed aerial and ground photographs of the entire site at noon (when it was thought attendance would peak), Steve Doig, a journalism professor at Arizona State University who specializes in quantitative research methods, made density estimates in eight different areas of the crowd (including under the trees). He then used Google Earth to estimate the square footage of the various different regions. He came up with crowd sizes in the different regions, which he added up over the whole rally area for an estimate of 80,000 attendees.

Ryan Shuler, who is an image analyst for AirPhotosLive, the research company that supplied the crowd photographs, used the same pictures and a slightly different method to make his estimate. He created a grid of small squares on the photos, counted individuals in a selected sample of squares and came up with a count of 87,000. The two estimates are well within AirPhotosLive's expected margin of error (in this case, 9,000 attendees).

CBS News went with the higher of the two estimates. But it wasn't high enough for the conservative blogosphere—or for Beck, who accused the mainstream media of downplaying his event. Interestingly, Doig's methodology in estimating the crowd at Obama's inauguration to be 800,000 was widely praised by the same groups that are now vilifying the estimate for the Restore Honor rally.

Does it matter whether the crowd at the event was 80,000 or 650,000? That depends, of course, on who you are and what you are trying to interpret. However, crowd counting is not something that should be pulled out of thin air. Presumably, informing the public about the true nature of an event as controversial as Beck's rally is at least as important as letting men know the likelihood that they can have kids.

If fertility doctors used the same slipshod estimation methods that Beck used, there would be a lot more happy—or unhappy—accidents walking around the country today.

For understanding, context is everything

By BOB RAY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at bobray@star-telegram.com.*

America never was America to me.

Say that line out loud and then ponder its meaning. Share it with others to get their reaction. Find out how they might feel about anyone who would utter those words.

It is a powerful, provocative sentence. I've used it often in speeches.

People could take that line, attribute it to me and then repeat it over and over in an attempt to define me — in six words.

But without the context, how dare they?

Yet that is what much of the important discourse in America has become: sound bites and snippets, often used to mislead, incite and even to assassinate one's character.

Rarely do we get the full context of one's statements quoted in the fast-paced 24-hour news cycle and churned repeatedly in the rabid broadcast media.

We've seen many examples of it recently and, in one case particularly, we ought to have learned our lesson about rushing to judgment based on one sentence or two.

Shirley Sherrod was forced out of her job with the Department of Agriculture for something she said at an NAACP function in March. One sound bite taken from a more than 40-minute speech made it appear that she was a racist who discriminated against a white farmer.

Before anyone took the time to examine the entire speech, she was called on her cellphone, told to pull her car off the road and send in her resignation immediately.

Of course when the media, USDA officials and the White House understood the context, they were all chagrined to learn that Sherrod's speech was one of reconciliation and a plea to move past racial prejudice.

It's happening again with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, who is heading the effort to build a Muslim community center and mosque in lower Manhattan near the site of the fallen World Trade Center.

Critics who are driving the resistance against building the 15-story structure have taken a few lines from a speech and a television interview to paint the cleric as a terrorist sympathizer who blames America for 9-11.

If you heard Rauf's entire interview and listened to his speeches in full you would know that he is the moderate Muslim most Americans say they prefer to have living here.

You might still find his words provocative and perhaps offensive, but at least you would have a better idea of what he was really saying, what he really meant.

Know the context before attacking someone is all I'm suggesting.

That also goes for the incident involving Laura Schlessinger, the radio talk show host who was castigated by many for using the n-word 11 times during a conversation with a black female caller whose husband is white.

She has announced that she will not renew her contract at the end of the year.

While I've never cared for Dr. Laura's program, I did listen to her comments.

Although one could argue with her approach, the use of "that word" and the advice she gave the caller, in context there was some truth to what she said.

Now, to the statement "America never was America to me."

It is a quote from my favorite American poet, Langston Hughes, a man I cite often — so much so that some readers become irritated at the mention of his name.

It is a recurring line in one of Hughes' longest poems (86 lines), "Let America be America Again." And the year it was published (1938, during the Great Depression) adds greater understanding.

It is informative to know that the poet was not speaking as a lone voice but for many desperate and dispossessed people in the country at the time: "the poor white," "the Negro," "the red man," "the immigrant."

For further context, consider this verse:

"O, let my land be a land where liberty
"Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
"But opportunity is real, and life is free,
"Equality is the air we breathe."

Context makes a difference.

CASE

From Page 6

The sooner we can help put those who are here and contributing to America's prosperity on a path to citizenship, the better. Turning them or their children away would be a serious mistake.

The country that welcomed millions of immigrants in the 20th century should extend its hand to others in the 21st and help make it their new home.

That's not amnesty. That's opportunity.

Curtis Tate is an editor at McClatchy Washington Bureau. Readers may write to him at: McClatchy Washington Bureau, 700 12th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

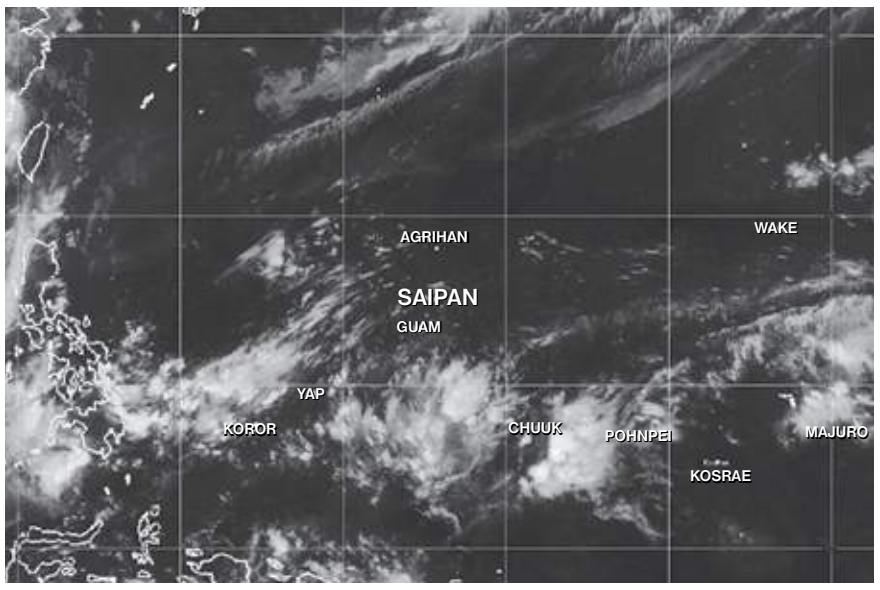
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲86	▼65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼71
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Rain	▲66	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲79	▼64
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲84	▼61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲80	▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough stretches southwestward from 25N175E through a low centered north of Yap at 14N137E to end at 8N130E. Upper-level divergence associated with these features is generating widely scattered to scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap within an area bounded by a line from 12N130E to 11N141E to 5N130E back to 12N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northeast of Wake Island within 60 miles of a line from 25N171E to 22N175E. A surface trough extends southwestward over the Marshall Islands from 14N175E to 5N169E. Converging winds near the trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Majuro between 13N and 7N from 166E to the date line. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk between 10N and 4N from 140E to 150E as well as over Pohnpei between 8N and 4N from 153E to 161E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
9:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:33 AM	8:24 PM
Sunday	9:34 AM	9:14 PM
Monday	10:34 AM	10:07 PM
Tuesday	11:33 AM	11:01 PM
Wednesday	12:29 PM	11:55 PM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Toys R Us invades the malls for the holidays

NEW YORK (AP)—Toys R Us plans to invade the mall this holiday season, opening 600 temporary "Express" stores in malls and other shopping centers around the country, more than six times last year's count, and hiring 10,000 seasonal workers.

The move is the latest in Toys R Us' attempt to capture more holiday dollars amid tough competition from online retailers and mass merchants such as Walmart and Target. It also fills a gap in shopping malls created when KB Toys, which had been the largest mall-based toy seller, went out of business in 2008.

"We've been very aggressive during the economic downturn, and this is another aggressive action," CEO Jerry Storch said. "During the holiday season, mall traffic ramps up, and this will allow customers to purchase fill-in toys," when they are at the mall already, he said.

Toys R Us opened 90 standalone pop-up stores last holiday season. The company has been working on the plan since last year.

Storch said the company was pleased with the results of the pop-up stores last year, so the question became "'How big can we make this?'"

While Storch won't disclose how much the initiative will cost, he said the capital investment is small, and more money will be spent on hiring and training employees.

The Toys R Us "Express" stores began opening in June and will continue to open through November. About 300 opened during the summer. Most will close in January, but some could become permanent outlet stores. Several of the temporary stores opened last year remain open as outlet stores.

Toys sales traditionally hold up well during tough economic times because parents cut spending on themselves rather than their children. In Toys R Us' most recent quarter, the company reported a loss because of higher costs, but revenue rose more than 5 percent to $2.61 billion.

Toys R Us has used the weak economy to grow by acquiring smaller toy retailers. In 2009 it acquired pricey toy seller FAO Schwarz and internet sites eToys.com, babyuniverse.com and toys.com.

The company, based in Wayne, N.J., operates 587 big-box stores, mainly standalone stores in shopping centers, and about 261 Babies R Us stores nationwide.

The privately held company said in late May that it plans to go public by raising as much as $800 million in an initial public offering that would be one of the biggest retail IPOs in years.

But on Wednesday, Storch declined to say when an IPO might occur.

"That's not something that we can predict, it depends on a variety of factors including the health and stability of the markets," he said.

Facebook inches past Google for Internet users' minutes

SEATTLE (AP)—U.S. Web surfers are spending more time socializing on Facebook than searching with Google, according to new data from researchers at comScore Inc.

In August, people spent a total of 41.1 million minutes on Facebook, comScore said Thursday, about 9.9 percent of their Web-surfing minutes for the month. That just barely surpassed the 39.8 million minutes, or 9.6 percent, people spent on all of Google Inc.'s sites combined, including YouTube, the free Gmail e-mail program, Google news and other content sites.

U.S. Web users spent 37.7 million minutes on Yahoo Inc. sites, or 9.1 percent of their time, putting Yahoo third in terms of time spent browsing. In July, Facebook crept past Yahoo for the first time, according to comScore.

In August of last year, Web surfers spent less than 5 percent of their online time on Facebook, about the same percentage of their time on Google and almost 12 percent on Yahoo. In August 2007, Facebook captured less than 2 percent of U.S. surfers' total minutes. Google accounted for less than 4 percent, and Yahoo for just over 12 percent.

To be sure, there's wiggle room in these estimates, which comScore bases on a combination of reports from a panel of two million users around the world and data from websites' servers. But the time spent posting photos, updating status messages and scrolling through news from friends has at least grown to rival just about everything else people do online.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Utility company: Gas line ruptured in blast area

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP)—The utility company that serves the San Francisco Bay area says one of its gas lines ruptured in the area where a massive blast and fire destroyed homes and sent residents fleeing. Pacific Gas and Electric Co. officials said in an e-mailed statement that the ruptured gas line was theirs, although they cautioned that the cause of the blast has yet to be determined. The company said it would "take accountability" if it was found to be responsible for the explosion. Utility crews were on the scene in San Bruno in the hills south of San Francisco working with emergency officials as the explosion was investigated.

Doctors see eye hazard in powerful laser pointers

NEW YORK (AP)—Doctors are warning about eye hazards from high-powered laser pointers that can be bought online. Exhibit A is a 15-year-old Swiss boy who damaged his vision during a homemade light show. The teen bought a pointer that was 30 times as powerful as the U.S. limit allows. Doctors report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine that the boy was playing with the pointer in front of a mirror to create a light show. He accidentally zapped his eyes several times. Four months later, his vision was still impaired.

Wildfire sets sights on Boulder as wind picks up

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado wildfire that has destroyed 170 homes showed no signs of relenting Thursday as wind gusts of more than 40 mph fueled fears that the flames would move east from the Rocky Mountain foothills and into the heart of Boulder, where some residents were warned to be ready to flee. Officials worried about a repeat of the devastation in the foothills, where neighborhoods once filled with million-dollar homes and scenic mountain cabins have become piles of smoking rubble. On one lot, all that survived was a tennis court. On others, all that's left are crumbling, ash-covered foundations. Authorities told residents on the west side of Boulder to be prepared to evacuate if the wildfire moves into town. They urged people to remove lawn furniture, brush and propane tanks that could fuel the fire. The city also mowed grass in open spaces to reduce potential fuel and told residents to do the same.

Police: 2 shot dead at Kraft plant in Pa., 1 hurt

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A woman who had just been suspended from her job and escorted from a Kraft Foods Inc. facility returned with a handgun and opened fire Thursday, killing two people and critically injuring a third before being taken into custody about an hour later, police said.

The shooting happened in the city's northeast section shortly after 8:30 p.m. inside a plant of the nation's largest food manufacturer, whose products include Oreo cookies, Philadelphia cream cheese and Oscar Mayer bacon, Lt. Frank Vanore said.

The woman returned to the building in a car 10 minutes after being escorted out and drove through a security barrier before re-entering the building on foot, Vanore said.

As she walked inside, she fired a shot at an employee who had followed her in and had yelled, "Hide, she's got a gun," Vanore said. That shot missed.

The woman then shot the three victims, said police, who didn't immediately know the victims' identities or whether they had been targeted. Officers responded and isolated the shooter in a room, and she fired a shot at them but missed, Vanore said.

AP

Police gather at the scene of a workplace shooting at the Kraft Foods Inc. facility in Northeast Philadelphia on Thursday Sept. 9, 2010.

Officers freed seven people who were "in a bad position" near the woman and were hiding, Vanore said, but he wouldn't refer to them as hostages. The shooter eventually was apprehended around 9:30 p.m., he said.

Television footage showed workers leaving the Northfield, Ill.-based company's plant, which used to be known as the Nabisco factory and is about six stories tall. Police surrounded the plant minutes after the shooting, and roads in the area were detoured as officers swarmed nearby.

Dough mixer Andy Ryan, who has worked at the plant for nearly 30 years, said he was on the third floor when the sound of the shots echoed through the building.

"I heard the gunfire, and I ran," he told The Associated Press, his apron still on. "As I was running down the steps they were yelling, 'Oh, my God, there's three people shot!'"

The Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper reported that about 100 people were inside the plant but had been cleared out.

Several telephone calls and e-mails to Kraft on Thursday night weren't immediately returned.

The identity of the suspended worker wasn't immediately released.

Mass shootings are rarely carried out by women, said Dr. Park Dietz, president of Threat Assessment Group Inc., a Newport Beach, Calif.-based violence prevention firm.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org

Notice of Council Meeting

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Saipan Hyatt Regency Hotel SandCastle.

Agenda

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Election of Pro-Temp Chairperson
   b. Call to Order
   c. Roll Call
   d. Adoption of Agenda

II. **Action Items**
   a. Election of Officers
      1. Chairperson
      2. Vice Chairperson
      3. Board Secretary
   b. Propose FY 2010 Budget Amendment
   c. Propose FY 2011 Projected Budget Approval

III. **Reports: None**
IV. **Old Business**
   a. Status of Call-a-Ride RFP

V. **New Business**
   a. Board & Staff Orientation
   b. Personnel Matter: Executive Director's Contract

VI. **Executive Session**
VII. **Miscellaneous**
VIII. **Next Meeting – October 2010**
IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to PL. 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Pamela C. Sablan
Executive Director

Decision to suspend Quran-burning met with relief

LHOKSEUMAWE, Indonesia (AP)—Religious and political leaders across the Muslim world welcomed a decision by a small American church to suspend its plans to torch copies of their holy book—but some said Friday the damage has already been done.

The Rev. Terry Jones from the Dove Outreach Center in Gainesville, Florida triggered international outrage when he announced he would burn the Quran on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, with hundreds of angry protesters in Afghanistan and Pakistan burning U.S. flags and chanting "Death to the Christians."

His decision to hold off, made overnight when many in Asia were sleeping, was met with relief.

"Quran burning plan aborted! Sanity prevails," Malaysia opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim told followers on the social networking site, Twitter. "Praise be to Allah. Our challenge: promote peace and justice."

But cleric Rusli Hasbi told 1,000 worshippers attending Friday morning prayers in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, that Jones had already "hurt the heart of the Muslim world."

"If he'd gone through with it, it would have been tantamount to war," the Indonesian cleric said in the coastal town of Lhokseumawe. "A war that would have rallied Muslims all over the world."

In Afghanistan, local officials estimated up to 4,000 people took part in Thursday's demonstration in Mahmud Raqi, capital of Kapisa province. NATO spokesman James Judge said there were 500 to 700 protesters.

A cleric in Balkh province said if the burning wend ahead a protest would be held Monday in the provincial capital, Mazar-i-Sharif. NATO-led troops are stationed in the city.

Judge: Military's ban on gays is unconstitutional

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge on Thursday declared the U.S. military's ban on openly gay service members unconstitutional and said she will issue an order to stop the government from enforcing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy nationwide.

U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips said the ban violates the First and Fifth Amendment rights of gays and lesbians.

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy prohibits the military from asking about the sexual orientation of service members. Under the 1993 policy, service men and women who acknowledge being gay or are discovered engaging in homosexual activity, even in the privacy of their own homes off base, are subject to discharge.

In her ruling, Phillips said the policy doesn't help military readiness and instead has a "direct and deleterious effect" on the armed services by hurting recruiting during wartime and requiring the discharge of service members with critical skills and training.

The Log Cabin Republicans, a 19,000-member group that includes current and former military members, filed a lawsuit in 2004 seeking an injunction to stop the ban's enforcement. Phillips will draft the injunction with input from the group within a week, and the federal government will have a week to respond.

The U.S. Department of Justice can file an appeal but there was no immediate word of that. After-hours e-mails and calls requesting comment from government attorney Paul G. Freeborne and from the Pentagon were not immediately returned Thursday evening.

Government lawyers said the judge lacked the authority to issue a nationwide injunction.

The lawsuit was the biggest legal test of the law in recent years and came amid promises by President Barack Obama that he will work to repeal the policy.

The ruling is the second major court decision this summer to come from a California judge and hand a major victory to gay rights advocates.

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- ☑ Gold Watches ..... up to $1,750
- ☑ Gold Nugget Rings ..... up to $800
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Asia

World waits for unveiling of NKorean heir apparent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean children are already singing the praises of the young man in line to become the reclusive nation's next leader, analysts say, but the rest of the world doesn't even know the age, or, until recently, how to spell the name of Kim Jong Il's youngest son.

Kim Jong Un is expected to make his public debut as the Dear Leader's heir apparent at an upcoming convention of the Workers' Party, North Korea's biggest political gathering in 30 years. If so, it could be the first time the world—and many North Koreans—get a peek at the communist crown prince hidden so long from public view.

Jong Un is said to look like his father, in face and figure, but there's no verifiable photo of him as an adult. The most widely circulated image of him was taken as a boy, a cherubic imp with bright eyes and a cheeky grin.

The man reportedly tapped to take over leadership of the nuclear-armed nation of 24 million is believed to be 27, but the exact year of his birth remains in dispute. Until last year, the South Korean government didn't even know how to spell his name because it's so rarely seen in print and has never been published in North Korean media.

Kim

The mystery is typical in reclusive North Korea, which maintains strict control over information and enforces a reverent cult of personality focused on the Kim family. Portraits of national founder Kim Il Sung and son Kim Jong Il grace the walls of every room and pins bearing their images adorn every lapel.

Kim Jong Il was similarly kept out of the public eye until his official debut at the last major political conference in 1980. He succeeded his father when the "Great Leader" died in 1994 of heart failure in what was the communist world's first hereditary transition of power.

Since then, Cuban leader Fidel Castro has handed the reins to his brother, Raul. And there have been other dynastic transfers of power. Former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier of Haiti was named president for life when his father, Francois, "Papa Doc," died. Syrian President Bashar Assad was groomed by his father, Bashar, for years and also took over upon his death.

Now, in North Korea, analysts believe the torch will pass to the third generation, with Jong Un assuming a key Workers' Party position, perhaps becoming the organizational secretary like his father before him, said Cheong Seong-chang, a senior fellow at the Sejong Institute think tank.

Top US intel chief in Afghan leaving for new post

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The top U.S. and NATO intelligence officer in Afghanistan, Maj. Gen. Michael Flynn, is moving to a senior intelligence job in Washington, two defense officials said Thursday.

Army spokesman Col. Thomas Collins confirmed Flynn would be taking up a new post but would not specify it because the move has not yet been approved by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

However, two defense officials said Flynn would be promoted to lieutenant general and become a top troubleshooter for the new Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence.

Another U.S. official said the position Flynn is being considered for is assistant director for national intelligence for partner engagement. The official also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Flynn, who has held the post in Afghanistan since June 2009, is expected to be replaced by Brig. Gen. Stephen Fogarty, the current intelligence chief for the U.S. Central Command in Florida.

In that post, Fogarty worked for current Afghan commander, General David Petraeus, who was named to command NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan in June.

The move will mark the departure of one of the last senior officers put in place by the former U.S. and NATO commander here, retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal. Petraeus replaced McChrystal who was fired by President Barack Obama after comments by his staff criticizing the White House were published in Rolling Stone magazine.

Fogarty served previously in Afghanistan as commander of the Joint Information Operation Center, which ran much of the military's Predator drone and remote surveillance intelligence at the time. Drones have been key to spotting and helping target insurgent networks.

During Flynn's tenure here, he produced a controversial report entitled "Fixing Intelligence," which criticized the intelligence gathering structure in Afghanistan. In doing so, he went outside Defense channels to publish the report with the Center for a New American Security, a U.S. think tank.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan couples go whole 9 yards in mass wedding

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—One hundred sixty-three couples in Taiwan were married in a mass ceremony at 9:09 a.m. on the ninth day of the ninth month of the 99th year since the founding of their republic. The word for nine in Chinese sounds exactly like the word for longevity, so there was method in the decision by Taipei city authorities to organize the nine-nine-nine-nine-nine-nine nuptials when they did. Taipei Mayor Hau Long-bin, naturally dressed to the nines, was all smiles during Thursday's event, going the whole nine yards to make everyone feel the true weight of the occasion. "I congratulate all the couples," he said.

Chinese blind activist lawyer released from prison

DONGSHIGU VILLAGE, China (AP)—Blind activist lawyer Chen Guangcheng returned home Thursday after a four-year prison stint to find that very little had changed—he was cut off from communication, monitored by security agents, his family still harassed and intimidated. Chen, 39, was sent to prison in 2006 after documenting forced late-term abortions and sterilizations and other abuses in his rural east China community. A self-taught lawyer, he is an inspirational figure to others in China who have fought to enforce the rights promised in the constitution but frequently breached by the authoritarian government and its security forces. Authorities stepped up their monitoring of Chen's family in recent days, dispatching a dozen agents to watch his wife as she went grocery shopping the day before his return. On Thursday, men in plainclothes blocked the entrance to his village and relatives' phones were frequently out of service.

Rights group: Violence threatens Afghan elections

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The legitimacy of Afghanistan's parliamentary elections is severely threatened by insurgent attacks on candidates and the lack of security provided by the government, an international rights group said Thursday. Human Rights Watch said in a report that the candidates running in the Sept. 18 vote face assassinations, kidnappings and intimidation by insurgents and rivals. Female candidates are especially at risk, it said. The government and its Western allies hope the elections for the lower house of parliament will help consolidate the country's shaky democracy and political stability, eventually allowing for the withdrawal of the roughly 140,000 NATO-led foreign troops in the country.

World

Mexican police didn't know they'd caught drug capo

AP

In this Aug. 31, 2010 file photo, U.S.-born Edgar Valdez Villarreal, alias "the Barbie," center, is presented to the press by federal police in Mexico City.

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican police officers who arrested infamous drug suspect Edgar Valdez Villarreal, alias "La Barbie," did not initially know who they had caught, according to a booking report obtained Thursday.

The Mexican government has depicted the capture of the U.S.-born Valdez as the result of a 1 1/2-year investigation and a carefully planned raid involving agents specially trained abroad.

But a copy of the booking report obtained by The Associated Press and other media outlets indicates that while special police teams were in the area where Valdez was caught Aug. 30, the officers who actually detained him were simply following a suspicious vehicle.

The report filed by federal police with prosecutors says a police patrol was traveling on a road west of Mexico City that day when a convoy of three vehicles passed at a high rate of speed.

The officers, who were not identified in the report, followed the convoy for more than two miles (four kilometers) before the vehicles stopped and officers ordered the occupants to get out.

The first person to descend from the vehicles was "a light-complexioned man who we later learned was Edgar Valdez Villarreal," according to the report, which also says the arresting officers were coordinating patrol efforts with a special operations unit.

In a statement, the federal police said the fact that such units were participating in the operation "implies that they were focusing on specific targets," not just detaining suspects at random.

Iran to free female American for holiday clemency

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Thursday it will free Sarah Shourd, one of three Americans jailed for more than 13 months, as an act of clemency to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The imprisonment of the Americans has deepened tensions between the U.S. and Iran, a relationship already strained over Washington's suspicions that Tehran is trying to manufacture nuclear weapons—something Iran denies.

Bak Sahraei, the second counselor of Iran's UN mission, sent an e-mail confirming the release of Shourd, following up an earlier text message from the Culture Ministry telling reporters them to come to a Tehran hotel on Saturday morning to witness the release.

The site is the same one where the three were allowed the only meeting with their mothers since they were detained in July 2009.

Iran claims they illegally crossed the border from Iraq's northern Kurdish region and had threatened to put the three on trial for spying. Their families say they were hiking in the largely peaceful region of Iraq and that if they crossed the border, it was accidental.

"Offering congratulations on Eid al-Fitr," the ministry text message said, referring to the feast that marks the end of Ramadan.

"The release of one of the detained Americans will be Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Estaghlal hotel."

The gesture could be a calculated move by Iran to soften international criticism of its judiciary. Iran has faced a growing storm of protest over a stoning sentence for a woman convicted of adultery that has been temporarily suspended.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has in the past proposed swapping the three for Iranians he says are jailed in the U.S., raising fears that the Americans are being held as bargaining chips.

WORLD BRIEFS

Activist: Beached whale in Brazil can't be saved

SAO PAULO (AP)—An animal-rights activist says an endangered right whale stranded on a beach in southern Brazil for two days is too weak to be rescued and returned safely to the sea. Elizabeth Carvalho da Rocha is head of the right-whale protection area in Brazil. She is quoted by Globo television's G1 website as saying the 40-ton, 50-foot-long (15-meter-long) whale was probably in frail condition when it beached itself because it is "very difficult for a healthy animal to get stranded." The whale ended up in shallow water at the Praia do Sol beach, on Brazil's southern coast. Rocha said Thursday that biologists would continue to monitor the whale's vital signs but there were indications it wouldn't survive much longer. She said biologists were considering euthanizing the whale to minimize its suffering.

Suicide car bombing in southern Russia kills 17

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia (AP)—Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin blamed extremists "without souls, without hearts" for a suicide car bombing that killed 17 people Thursday in the crowded central market of a city in the North Caucasus. It was the fourth terrorist attack at the market in a decade, and while no one claimed responsibility, the Kremlin has been trying to contain Islamic militancy in the mountainous southern region of Russia. Nearly 140 were wounded in the bombing in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, with about a half-dozen hospitalized in very serious condition.

US Marines take back pirate-held ship off Somalia

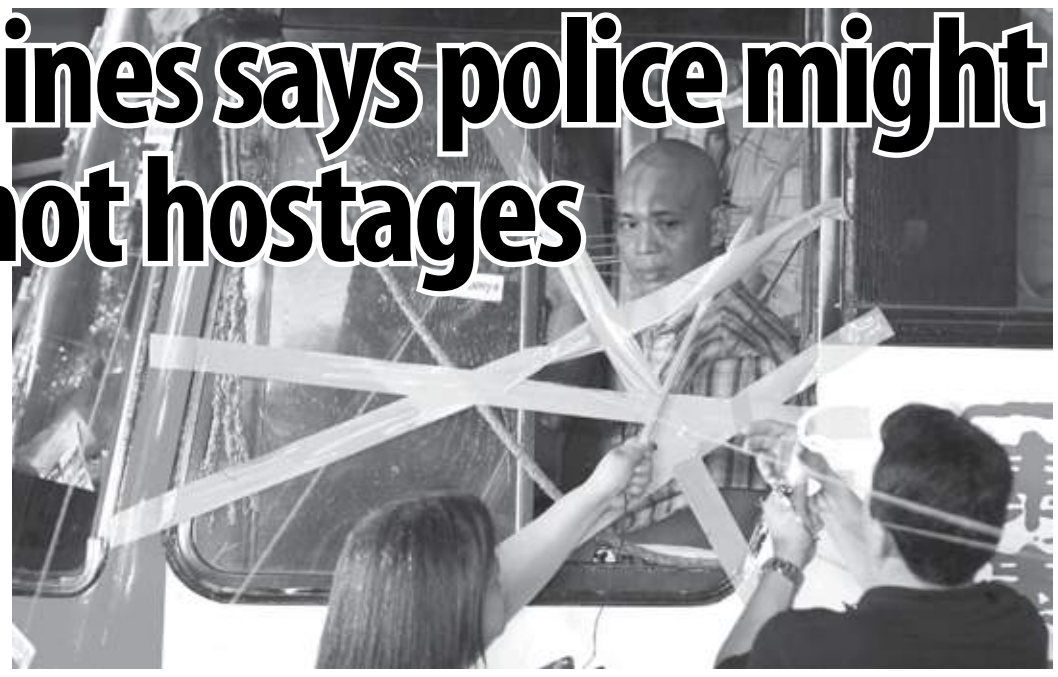
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—U.S. Marine commandos stormed a pirate-held cargo ship off the Somalia coast Thursday, reclaiming control and taking nine prisoners without firing a shot in the first such boarding raid by the international anti-piracy flotilla, U.S. Navy officials said. The mission—using small craft to reach the deck of German-owned vessel as the crew huddled in a safe room below—ranks among the most dramatic high seas confrontations with pirates by the task force created to protect shipping lanes off lawless Somalia. The crew managed to kill the engines before taking refuge in an panic room-style chamber, leaving the ship adrift and the pirates so frustrated they started damaging equipment after hijacking the vessel Wednesday, Navy officials and the ship's operator say.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 11, 2010

Philippines says police might have shot hostages



Alberto Lubang, the driver of a tourist bus which was hijacked by a dismissed policeman in a 11-hour hostage standoff on Aug. 23, describes to investigators how he managed to escape during an ocular inspection by the probe body Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010 at Philippine National Police's Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig city east of Manila, Philippines.

AP

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Some victims in a botched hostage rescue of a tourist bus in the Philippines may have been hit by police fire, the nation's top law enforcement official said Thursday.

Eight tourists from Hong Kong were killed and three seriously wounded after a fired policeman hijacked their bus on Aug. 23 to demand his job back. The hostage-taker was also killed when police stormed the bus after a standoff that dragged on for hours on live television around the world.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said bullet trajectories and the hostages' wounds indicate that some of the passengers may have been hit by "friendly fire." She did not say, however, whether any of the shots fired by police were fatal and added that investigators will await a complete ballistics report before drawing any final conclusions.

The new details of the investigation emerged as Philippines President Benigno Aquino III said he's through apologizing for the attack and will focus instead on easing tensions with China and Hong Kong, where officials have criticized the handling of the daylong crisis.

"Let me just say that this incident will not define this administration," Aquino said in a nationally televised news conference. He added that he will wait for a report from a fact-finding committee before he fires any officials for the fiasco.

Aquino, facing his first major test barely two months after taking office, said he will now focus on preventing a repeat of the incident. The public and the media have questioned why the president wasn't more visible and involved.

"The first thing I will admit is I am not perfect and I can learn," said Aquino, who said he was following the developments from his office. Later, he went to a restaurant near the downtown Manila park where the hostages were held to meet with officials, but he did not want to be "back seat driving" or looking over the shoulders of those handling the crisis, he said.

Aquino said he lost his patience with police commandos and their haphazard assault on the bus. "Every mistake that I saw, I pointed out," he said. "That was perhaps my way of being 'hands on.'"

He said a police Special Action Force trained for hostage rescue that had held a training exercise earlier that day was not deployed as promised. Instead, a local Manila police SWAT team was used in the assault.

Television footage showed the team was unprepared and took about an hour to break into the bus instead of just seconds, Aquino said.

The Filipino today

PERSPECTIVE

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jaime Vergara, a regular contributor to the Opinion page, is a proud dual citizen of the Philippines and the United States.

I delight in retelling the story of my encounter with an Ilonggo in Hong Kong sometime back. My wife and I had gone for a medical checkup that might include a decision to abort a fetus depending on the result of a physical exam, a service not available (at least, not legally) in the Philippines at the time. Near the old Hilton around the old Connaught Center, I chanced on the lilting tone of a *Toto* in the Sunday crowd that congregated 20K some Filipinos in downtown Victoria Island.

"Ilonggo ka man, Dong?" I asked to start a conversation. *"Di 'Nong, Pinoy na ko!"* was the proud reply. I refer to street-smart world-wise Filipinos as Pinoys ever since.

Attorney Alex Lacson, the affable social activist (Google his Wikipedia) of *Kalipay* (not the Foundation) Negrense's origin, recently wrote an article about the Filipino today in the aftermath of the Manila massacre of helpless Hong Kong tourists in the botched SWAT rescue of a hostage-taking incident by a former police officer who tried to dramatize his claimed innocence and ask for reconsideration of his perceived unjust firing. In the Filipino sensitivity to the *"ano na lang ang sasabihin nila"* syndrome, Lacson wants to counter the battering of the Filipino image from the Chinese media and the global press.

Today is the anniversary of the 9/11 shaking of foundations of the American psyche that brought us into paroxysm of paranoia and frenzy of fear as a nation. Not in the same scale but of equally jarring consequence in the dark corners of our psyche are two realities in current Philippine consciousness: first, the political massacre in Maguindanao that seems to make murder a casual enterprise conducted to ease political expediency and electoral convenience. Its indictment of the feudal nature of Philippine politics still practiced in many parts of the archipelago gives the awakened ones good reason to pause; and the Rizal Park botched SWAT rescue witnessed around the world, is second.

Lacson's task is thereby in order, and I would be the last one to ever put down any attempt to recover the affirming stance in racial and ethnic identity. But that's where Lacson's push rubs us discordantly. To begin with, there is no one Filipino people. Colleagues from Montañosa and Muslim Mindanao resent that term. "We were never subject to the Spanish nor the Americans," they say, "so we are not progeny to rule of King Phillip of Spain." The late Carlos P. Romulo said as much!

Allegiance to the current Philippine political dispensation is also varied. I retrieved my Philippine passport recently when I was told that the Philippine Congress passed a law retaining the citizenship of those who were naturalized elsewhere. Of course, the USCIS officer I talked to said that dual citizenship is really not officially recognized in the U.S. but is tolerated (50-some nations with the U.S. "tolerate" dual allegiances).

"Filipino" as a political designation has limited coverage, and hardly a lively defining word. I go with *Pinoy* but that's for those who have transcended the parochialism of dialect and regional identification, still prevalent especially among overseas workers. The number of Ilocano organizations in Hawaii is staggering; in Dallas, Texas in the late '60s, we had one Philippine association. Now I understand, there are more than 125 and that was a count a decade ago!

Unified political allegiance to the current Philippine government is also suspect. Noynoy, for all the hope his administration engenders and the unassailable credentials of his pedigree, still represents *illustrado* nationalism, oligarchic in landownership and corporate capital. Plebian Alex Lacson did not make the Philippine Senate this past election, and one look at the current congressional membership, save for the movie and media stars, traces direct family ties of the majority to the players in the 1935 Commonwealth Legislature. In short, not much has changed since we traded national patrimony to the highest commercial bidder from Wall Street with their local *compradores.*

There is no one Filipino people, nor is the term a racial and ethnic category. There are only Filipinos and then some, a growing segment preferring the term *Pinoy* as an act of selfhood. Some of its creative members are in diaspora. Whether one is known for his prowess in boxing, or a recent nomination to a state Supreme Court, being a doctor in the White House, or a singer in Broadway, none of the sterling qualities accrue by being a Filipino. There are plenty of notable Filipinos, but that does not define a Filipino people!

Not unlike the perceived nannygate of the OED when it defined "Filipina" as being a housemaid, the offense was more on the aristocratic putdown of menial labor since even a high government official was an *au pair* to the Swiss. The reason the Philippine economy is still afloat is because of the remittances of maids from HK, Singapore, Dubai, Madrid, etc., and there is nothing about that service that the Pinoy need to be ashamed about!

If for anything, what the Filipino need is a grain of truth rather than the *pakitang tao* we are so good at. I was once with a group of maids alighting at Ninoy Aquino Int'l when one of the ladies blurted out that it is time to bring out the Christian Dior, Ferragamo, Burberry, Gucci and other designer boutique items for relatives await at the gates.

We botched the SWAT rescue because the old "pakiusap" method was not good enough; we showed on TV the despondent's relatives being coercively arrested by the police; and we wonder why he went berserk? The Filipino today needs to face the real, and not paper over the unhealthy practices that we grew up with just so we look good, or appear to be in a position of economic advantage. BTW, anyone still knows how to make electrical, water and cable connections bypassing meters? Ooops!

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PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

4 hurt in Tondo fire caused by cooking gas tank

MANILA, Philippines – A leaking liquefied petroleum gas tank was blamed for a fire that razed a house in Tondo, Manila, Friday morning, injuring four members of the household, including a 70-year-old woman and an 18-year-old boy. The fire started at 8:05 a.m. in the kitchen on the ground floor of the two-story house at 1885 Velasquez Street, firemen said. Ronaldo Babas, 45, and Rodolfo Morales, 42, suffered second-degree burns in 50 percent of their bodies, while Babas' son Reinier had 30-40 percent of his body burnt. Anita Babas sustained minor injuries. Fire Officer 2 Lords Hernandez, the arson investigator, said the victims were rushed to the Mary Johnston Hospital. Babas told investigators that they were switching on a newly installed LPG tank when the gas blew up, injuring the four victims. But Hernandez said the cause of the blaze remained under investigation. The fire was put out at 9:05 a.m. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Hostage-taking of 4-year-old girl in Bataan ends well

MANILA, Philippines—The cousin of a policeman held hostage a seven-year-old girl in Bataan province Wednesday night, allegedly due to personal problems, a police report said Thursday. But negotiations and interventions by the suspect's cousin, Police Officer 3 Joselito Abelarde, led to the peaceful surrender of Remegio Ladag and the release of his hostage, Anarie Pascual, according to a report from Chief Inspector Karen Clark, spokesperson of Central Luzon police. Clark, in her report said, Ladag entered the home of the Pascuals at Batangas 2, Mariveles town before 10 p.m. Wednesday. The other occupants of the house, however, were able to escape, Clark said. Police immediately called Abelarde at the request of Ladag. Thirty minutes later, after negotiations, Ladag surrendered to Bataan police. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Bus robbers strike in Mandaluyong, Taytay

Robbers did not take a holiday on Friday and held up passengers of two commuter buses in separate incidents in Mandaluyong City and Taytay, Rizal. In a minute or two, four men were able to run away with the bags and other valuables of at least 10 passengers on a Manila-bound bus on the Manila-East Road in Taytay town. And half an hour later, another group of robbers struck and held up a bus on EDSA near Reliance Street in Mandaluyong City. Superintendent Carlito Briones, Taytay police chief, said four men pretending to be passengers flagged down the RRCG Line bus as it was approaching Tikling, the boundary of Taytay and Pasig City. Immediately after boarding the bus, two of the four pulled out guns and announced the heist. At gunpoint, the robbers ordered the driver to pull over and then slipped into a sack almost all the passengers' belongings. Briones noted that the robbery happened "in a flash," taking the robbers only a minute to board and get off the bus. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Philippine govt raises $1B in global bonds

By RONNEL DOMINGO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The government raised $1 billion (P44.1 billion) in the maiden issue of 10-year, peso-denominated global bonds Friday, the Finance Department said Friday.

National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan said the new issue was priced at 99.607 percent with a coupon of 4.95 percent and a yield of 5 percent.

"The peso global bond is expected to enhance the government's debt investor profile while paving the way for greater participation by offshore investors in the Philippine capital markets," Tan said.

The bonds, which had a yield of five percent, attracted bids over 13 times the offer, the department said in a statement, adding that this showed confidence in the economic agenda of newly-elected President Benigno Aquino III.

"This is a landslide vote of confidence by the global financial markets in [Aquino's] leadership... as well as in the macroeconomic fundamentals of the country," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima was quoted as saying in a report by Agence France-Presse.

The bond offering also showed that the Philippine peso was now being accepted as an overseas bond, the department said.

"Now, we can lessen the issuance of dollar bonds in the future."

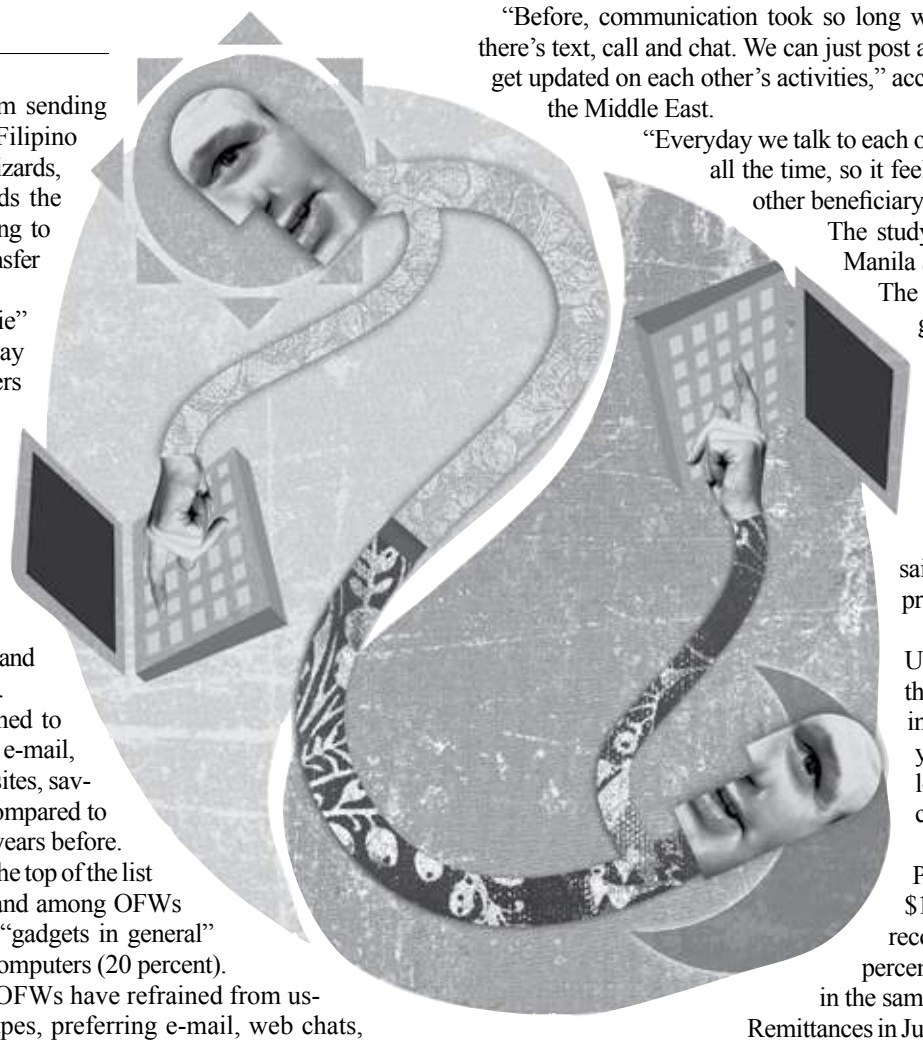
Orders for the securities came from the United States, Europe and Asia, the department said, although it did not give a breakdown.

Aquino took office in June after winning May 10 elections by a landslide after running on an anti-corruption platform.

He has vowed to spur economic growth by building infrastructure, fighting tax evasion and making it easier to do business in this country. ***(with Agence France-Presse)***

Overseas Filipino workers purveyors of new technology

By RIZA T. OLCHONDRA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MANILA, Philippines—Apart from sending billions of dollars home, overseas Filipino workers have turned into modern wizards, showing family members and friends the ways of modern technology, according to a study commissioned by money transfer company Western Union.

OFWs have become "more techie" during—and even after—their stay abroad, according to family members interviewed by research firm Synovate Phils. Inc.

OFWs and beneficiaries interviewed said the workers' exposure to technology in other countries made them more aware of new tools for communication. Their remittances to family members, in turn, give beneficiaries the means to acquire gadgets and use them for improved communication.

Thus, beneficiaries said, they learned to use computers to send and receive e-mail, chat, and logon to social networking sites, saving them precious time and money compared to sending letters, which was the norm years before.

Cellular phones (23 percent) are at the top of the list of gadgets that enjoyed greater demand among OFWs and their beneficiaries, followed by "gadgets in general" (20 percent) and laptops or desktop computers (20 percent).

As for communication methods, OFWs have refrained from using snail mail and sending voice tapes, preferring e-mail, web chats, and social networking instead.

"Before, communication took so long with letters and voice cassettes. Now there's text, call and chat. We can just post a picture on Facebook and we already get updated on each other's activities," according to a beneficiary of an OFW in the Middle East.

"Everyday we talk to each other on Skype, and we text each other all the time, so it feels as if they are just nearby," said another beneficiary with a family member in Australia.

The study covered 300 respondents in Metro Manila and the nearby province of Batangas. The study, done mainly through focus group discussions and self-assessment, was conducted in July.

Western Union, which has been operating in the Philippines since 1990, commissioned the survey to explore how much of the foreign values and characteristics were adopted, retained, rejected or transferred home, said Ma. Patricia Ringen, senior vice president for the Pacific and Indochina.

Drina Yue, who leads Western Union's team in Asia Pacific said that there had been "an extraordinary rise in (Filipino) migration in the past 20 years," prompting the company to look into possible effects of OFW's cultural interactions.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, OFW remittances reached $1.62 billion in June, the highest on record for a single month. This was 8.3-percent higher than the $1.5 billion reported in the same period last year.

Remittances in June brought the total for the first semester to $9.06 billion, up 6.9 percent from $8.48 billion a year ago.

RP govt eyes 7 percent economic growth rate

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The government wants to generate about P180 billion a year in investments to sustain economic growth, the benefits of which may trickle down to the poor this time.

According to Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, the Aquino administration hopes to see an annual economic growth rate of at least 7 percent starting 2011.

"We are targeting at least P180 billion a year to achieve growth of at least 7 percent. That [growth figure] is what is needed to make significant inroads in poverty reduction," Paderanga said.

But such growth will require substantial investments particularly in public infrastructure—a goal the country may be hard pressed to attain since most foreign investors tend to place their funds in neighboring economies.

Paderanga said the increase in investments, which would keep the economy on its growth track, should create more job opportunities and reduce poverty.

Some economists believe that economic growth has not translated to anything meaningful for the country's poor in recent years.

Poverty remains a serious problem, with the number of Filipinos living below the poverty line estimated at about a third of the population.

Latest data from the National Statistics Office showed that the jobless rate in the country stood at 8 percent in April, up from 7.5 percent in the same period last year.

But the Aquino administration is now aggressively pushing its Public Private Partnership (PPP) program, where private corporations will be urged to fund public projects, such as those related to agriculture, utilities, tourism, roads and bridges.

Aquino admits receipt of insulting HK letter

By NORMAN BORDADORA, NIKKO DIZON, JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III has promised China there will be "no cover-up" in the investigation of the Rizal Park hostage tragedy, but said he resented receiving an "insulting letter" from a Hong Kong official apparently dictating what he should do in dealing with the tragedy.

In a special media interview Thursday, Aquino said he decided not to answer the letter from the official he did not identify but that he told the Chinese government that the letter—personally addressed to him—was uncalled for.

Eight Hong Kong tourists were killed when a sacked Filipino policeman took them hostage on their bus on Aug. 23 in a horrifying drama seen on national and global television.

The Philippines' supposed bungling of the crisis provoked massive protests in Hong Kong, which China regards as "a special administrative region."

In a statement Thursday, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao said that in their meeting at Malacañang on Wednesday, he and Aquino "looked forward to concerted efforts by the two sides in striking a proper settlement of the related issues and moving on with Philippines-China relations."

Liu said Aquino "stressed that the Philippine side will work closely with the Chinese side to go ahead with the investigation without unprincipled protection and cover-up."

Won't fight back

Aquino revealed the existence of the supposedly offensive letter in an interview with television news anchors Ted Failon, Paolo Bediones and Mel Tiangco.

The President later said he wished he had not spoken about the letter.

"I may have made a mistake when I told you (about the letter) but we have decided that while there are those who want to pick a fight with us, we won't fight back to prevent the conflict from getting worse," he said.

Aquino said he had decided not to answer the letter.

"We decided not to respond to an insulting letter that came from an official of the government of Hong Kong. We just told their government in the People's Republic of China to tell them that the letter they sent was inappropriate," he said.

While the letter was "not very strongly worded," the President said, "we were being told in very minute detail of what we are supposed to do."

He said the letter was "addressed to me."

Need to repair ties

Aquino appealed to the panelists not to pursue the subject, and refused to answer when asked who signed the letter.

"We are quite conscious to repair relations," the President said. "Of course, we have to understand that this is an unusual event for the people of Hong Kong, that's why we have accepted all the criticisms and insults."

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

'Glee' premiere and after-party: We were there

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES—"Charice will get applause," Ryan Murphy told us as he took his seat in the Paramount

Theatre before Tuesday evening's premiere screening of "Glee" Season 2 at the Paramount Studios lot.

Ryan, the show's creator, recently won the Emmy Best Director for Comedy Series.

Sitting on the other end of the row was Charice, cute in a short black dress and high heels. "Kinakabahan po ako," she said, demonstrating with her hands how her heart was pounding. It would be her first time to watch the season opener, too. Seated beside her was her brother Carl. The diminutive girl wonder from the Philippines told us that she was especially nervous about how her duet with the show's star, Lea Michele (Rachel Berry), would turn out.

Charice's Sunshine

Holding a "Glee" bag of popcorn, Charice revealed that she had been filming the series for two months, with a few more weeks to go. She described her character, Sunshine Corazon, a Filipino exchange student: "She's very neat, calm, nerdy and shy. She's going to be frenemies with Rachel Berry."

Charice Pempengco attends the 82nd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on the streets of Manhattan in New York City, November 27, 2008.

Asked who Sunshine's friends will be, Charice answered: "Tina (Jenna Ushkowitz), I think. Tina becomes a close friend, and in a weird way, Rachel, but not like you'd think."

The rest of the cast started filing in. "Hi, Ryan Murphy!" Jane Lynch teasingly greeted the director. When Ryan asked how her red carpet walk went, Jane quipped: "I dropped bon mots and moved on. It went fast."

Brad Falchuk, who directed the season opener that was about to screen, gave a quick talk, thanking his "talented and amazing cast."

Then the theater went dark and the audience cheered in eager anticipation. Spoiler alert: Stop reading now if you don't want to learn specific details about the season opener. We got our first glimpse of Charice as the New Directions sings Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind" on campus to attract new members (The national finals will be held in New York, hence the song). Lea smiles and glances at Charice, who is watching the choir.

There's a funny bit by Lea as she presumes that Charice's Sunshine does not understand English well (it's humorously done, not offensive at all). She tries to entice Charice to audition for the New Directions.

Competition alert

But then she hears Charice sing in the bathroom and her competition alert instincts take over. She couldn't help but join Charice in singing Lady Gaga and Beyonce's "Telephone."

The audience applauded the scene, and Charice must have heaved a big sigh of relief in her seat.

Of course, Jane's Sue Sylvester gets the laugh as she enters the bathroom and yells at the two singing divas: "Shut up!"

Charice gets her spotlight when she auditions and sings Beyonce's "Listen." Three Filipino fans of hers in the audience—Monika Corpus, Mika Viado and my niece Elgeen Nepales—later told us they cried and had goose bumps. So proud they were of Charice getting this break on US mainstream TV.

The audience applauded again — Ryan was right.

Charice is not the only new kid on the block who will steal viewers' hearts. Chord Overstreet (playing Sam Evans), with his Mick Jagger lips, croons Travie McCoy and Bruno Mars' "Billionaire." He sure had the girls in the audience swooning.

Boy Abunda: Keanna couldn't handle fame

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"She ceased being my talent two years ago," said Boy Abunda of sexy comedienne Keanna Reeves. "I spoke with her to say she was being freed from her contract. I did everything I could for her."

The talent manager and TV host was reacting to Keanna's recent interview, where she said she felt "neglected" by her manager, referring to Abunda. She said she would rather be released from her talent contract, "so I can move on."

Abunda said proof of Keanna's release from his management is her being cast in the sitcom "Hapi Together" on TV5.

"She didn't ask for my permission before agreeing to this project. I don't mind that she's doing it, either," he said.

According to Keanna, her talent contract with Abunda's Backroom Inc. does not expire until 2011. She joined Backroom shortly after she won the grand prize in the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition" in 2006.

Abunda said the last time she spoke with Keanna was two or three months ago. "I told her, 'you're free to go.' I had to clearly explain this to her because I was afraid she would misinterpret me. You see, [Backroom] still gives her bookings from time to time."

Not an accomplice

He added: "Against the advice of everybody, I took her in. I cared for her. But she couldn't handle fame. She was late in most of her tapings. She became the problem of everyone she worked with. I took all the blows for her. I didn't give up."

Two years ago, Abunda said, he finally decided it was best to simply let Keanna go. "Backroom regularly assesses the performance of its talents. It came to a point when we (Backroom staff members) could no longer do anything about her."

Abunda also stressed that he had no knowledge of Keanna's alleged short-lived affairs with actors Luis Manzano, Jake Cuenca and Cogie Domingo. "She should not imply that I knew of these things. I have no concern about her dalliances. I don't want people to think I'm her accomplice," he said.

Amy Perez finds drama in real life

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Birthday girl Amy Perez can't ask for anything more. Her new show, "Untold Stories" (premieres today 8 p.m. on TV5), is another blessing for her.

It's a spin-off from her top-rating show "Face to Face." It will delve into the real-life dramas of her guests so that viewers could empathize or sympathize with them more.

Any untold story in Amy's own life? "It has always been an open book," she says. "Especially my love life."

If there's any chapter in her life she would want to edit out, what is it and why? "Getting married," she quips. "Even if I was already 27, I should have given more time to know the guy well. Kaya 'wag magpadala sa sweet talk 'cause when reality steps in, all that will be gone."

Bearing lessons in life and love, Amy can now look back and forward with a big smile in her heart.

Overprotective BF

Bayani Agbayani would rather not make a big fuss about his confrontation with Dingdong Dantes at Ogie Alcasid's birthday party.

It was triggered by an incident that happened last year at the taping of Marian Rivera's sitcom "Show Me the Manny."

"Nagulat ako nung parang hinahamon ako ni Dong," Bayani explains. "Sabi ko 'wag dun kasi nakakahiya. 'Di namin party yun … Nagsumbong siguro si Marian kay Dong na nabugahan ko siya ng gatas sa taping. 'Di ko sinasadya yun. Bondying ang role ko. Masyadong malaki ang butas ng tsupon. Nakahiga ako sa lap ni Marian. Sumirit yung milk pagsubo sa akin ni Marian ng tsupon, so pareho kaming natalsikan ng milk. Sa galit ni Marian, binuhos niya lahat ng gatas sa mukha ko. 'Di na nga ako nag-ingay nung nangyari yun last December. Naungkat na lang uli kasi maraming nakakita nung magka-enkwentro kami ni Dong sa party. Ayoko ng gulo. Gusto ko lang magtrabaho."

Bayani doesn't want to milk the "gatas issue" for all its worth.

I've always known Dong to be a perfect gentleman. That's why I'm quite surprised to hear Bayani's story. At press time, I was still waiting for Dong's reply for his side of the story.

Word war

The war between Claudine Barretto and Angelica Panganiban has gotten out of hand. Will the former friends end up battling it out in court?

Someone they both respect ought to mediate already. It's so unbecoming for two ladies like them to be exchanging nasty words via tweets and texts.

Although Angelica's camp says that she's taking the path of silence, the insinuation that Angelica's revelations could be damaging to Claud's career only aggravates matters.

Sometimes it's not what we say but what we don't say and can't say that has more impact.

No remake

Roderick Paulate is excited to shoot his movie with Maricel Soriano in Como, Italy. Won't he make a special appearance in the remake of his movie "Petrang Kabayo" top-billed by Vice Ganda?

"Sunod-sunod kasi ang movie ko na gay ang role," he explains. "Baka magka-umay factor, so pass na muna ako. I know Vice can handle it well. 'Wag na lang sana ikumpara ang portrayal namin. Magkaiba ang training namin. Siguradong may sorpresa naman si Vice sa pagatake niya ng role."

Grace under pressure

True to her Miss Universe form, Gloria Diaz exudes grace under pressure.

"I never thought my comment about Cebuanos would stir up a controversy," she says. "I didn't single out Cebuanos. I also said that if a beauty pageant contestant is from Ilocos or Pampanga, it would be better if she gets an interpreter so she could express herself better. But my interview was edited so my comment was taken out of context."

"I am not one who would ever make derogatory remarks about Cebuanos or anyone for that matter. How shocking that they are even thinking of making me persona non grata in Cebu. I'm not a killer or a pusher. I love everything about Cebu—their lechon, mangoes, handicrafts, etc. My BF Mike is Cebuano.

"I'm sorry if Cebuanos misunderstood what I said. But if it's any consolation, this issue made me realize that I still matter. At my age, I am still a mover and a shaker."

Crisis in style

Could it be true that Ronald Singson bought a yacht in Hong Kong? If so, he can have some R&R while awaiting the verdict of his case. In crisis, in style.

Reverse psychology

Ryan Agoncillo and Judy Ann Santos will name their baby boy-to-be Juan Luis or Lucho for short. "We patterned it from our daughter's name Yohan Louise," says Ryan. "Para siya ang male version ng ate niya.

"As a dad, I will try to use reverse psychology on my son. Like when he hovers around me while I'm into my fave sport, I'll send him back to his room. That way he will become curious and eventually get into the same stuff I enjoy."

Goodbye, 100K

Ruffa Gutierrez, Tita Cristy Fermin and I were pleasantly surprised when Mo Twister presented 10 revealing pics of him and Rhian Ramos in "Paparazzi." Since Ruffa challenged everyone to send in incriminating photos of the two in exchange for P10,000 each, Mo beat everyone to it.

So Ruffa had to kiss her 100K goodbye. Mo requested that the prize be donated to Ruffa's favorite charity for battered women. All in good fun and for a good cause.

Maharlika – Opinyon

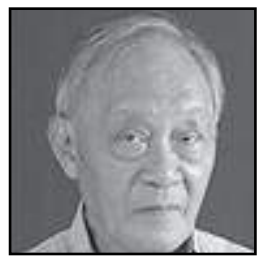
Cross-fire

The news media were raked on the cross-fire of the government-initiated investigation seeking to determine responsibility for the Aug. 23 hostage-taking slaughter of Hong Kong tourists at the Quirino Independence Grandstand.

The press took pride of place—together with the police, and some Cabinet members, mainly of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Manila municipal officials—in the hot seat where they were grilled by the investigating committee chaired by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima for their role in the hostage episode climaxed by the death of eight of the 22 tourists seized by a Filipino police officer who had been dismissed on charges of extortion.

Among the public institutions put on the carpet, it should be noted that the press is the only non-government institution. The main reason why members of the press, especially those of the TV networks, were among the principal witnesses in the hearings conducted by Malacañang fact-finding committee, seems to be that the government is looking for a scapegoat to blame for the bungled police effort to free the hostages. Since no one on the government side is taking responsibility for the carnage, it appears convenient for the government to blame the media for the fiasco for their interference in police rescue operations.

Questions put at the committee hearings tended to highlight the presence of TV reporters inside the zone cordoned by police with tape, standing on the way of police movements, and interfering with their interviews through mobile phones with the gunman inside the hijacked tourist bus. The interference partly clogged communications lines for negotiations between the police rescue team and the gunman over the release of the hostages. Police have alleged that the minute-by-minute TV coverage aided the gunman by allowing him to monitor movements of the police outside the bus. Police have concluded that their action of arresting and disarming the gunman's brother, who claimed that he came to the scene to persuade the gunman to free and not harm the hostages, provoked the gunman to shoot the hostages.



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The issue of the coverage by TV reporters of the rapidly unfolding developments inside the cordoned conflict zone is relevant here. It raises a highly controversial point. Did the ubiquitous presence of reporters inside the conflict zone—purportedly to report and provide updated information on the crisis to serve the "public's right to know"—served that purpose or compromised police operations or saved lives. One investigating committee member raised the issue: what was more important to media: reporting on what was happening inside the bus or doing the "human duty" to save lives? The primary duty of reporters covering dangerous events is to write about the news—not to save lives. Reporters are not trained to negotiate to free hostages; they are very clumsy at this, and their ineptitude could even lead to bungled negotiations. Reporters on the frontline of conflict situations are not Red Cross workers.

Closer to reality is the testimony by some of the media persons that the reporters who minutely monitored the developments on the siege were driven by the competition for "scoops" to deliver news in the networks' ratings war. The testimony said that this ratings competition may have doomed the negotiations and may have turned the siege into a massacre. In terms of the public right to know, it is important to ask: Did this flood of details on an extremely fluid and volatile situation give the public essential information or make them more intelligent in assessing the competence of the police in handling the siege? What information did we miss? Are we better informed citizens after that deluge of details?

Why can't we wait for the results after the crisis is resolved, successfully or not? In the experience from negotiations over crisis conditions, leakage on the process of crisis resolution more often than not has led to the collapse of negotiations. The negotiations of the Rizal Park siege readily demonstrated that the close monitoring of the siege by media proved to be a disaster.

The press is often used by political activists in crisis as hostages as well as scapegoats for the failure of police or governments to protect citizens from insurrections or violence. In the 2007 siege of the Manila Peninsula, the military rebels, led by Lt. (sg) Antonio Trillanes IV, seized the hotel in a march from the Makati court house, surrounded by reporters who covered it as a news event.

Inside the hotel, the rebels held a press conference, covered by the press. They were fully aware that the government forces that stormed the hotels were hesitant to fire on them, because security forces were afraid that press members could become collateral casualties. That a number of reporters were hauled by the security forces to Bicutan for allegedly abetting the siege is another story.

The point here is that when reporters cover dangerous events to serve the public's right to know, they get into the cross-fire and could be used by rebels and law breakers as human shields and hostages.

When media people become overenthusiastic in being in the center of the action to write the news, let us bear in mind that they are vulnerable: first to being used as human shields by the lawbreakers; and secondly, to being used by government as the scapegoat to deflect criticism for its failure to protect the lives of endangered citizens, as in the case of the hostage rescue fiasco last Aug. 23.

EDITORIAL

Trial of the centuries

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Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda has poohpoohed the warning of Sen. Joker Arroyo that unless the justice department and the judiciary rationalize the trial of those accused in the Maguindanao massacre, the case could take 200 years because of the large number of defendants and witnesses. A lawyer himself, Lacierda said Arroyo was making an exaggerated claim and expressed belief that the trial would be concluded in the earliest possible time. He refused to give an estimate of the length of time it would take to try the case, however.

Of course, Arroyo was exaggerating! But his hyperbole does not mean his warning has no validity. Considering the historic slowness and labyrinthine procedures of the Philippine justice system, there's the likelihood indeed that the Maguindanao trial would not be concluded in this generation, or the next for that matter. The senator, a trial lawyer himself, said that a case that has "too many defendants and witnesses is…not good." "If there are 200 defendants and 300 witnesses, it will take 200 years to finish this because even one defendant can delay the proceedings," he explained. "They won't finish it even if they hold hearings every day."

The case is a cause célèbre. Former Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. and several other members of the politically powerful Ampatuan clan of Maguindanao have been charged with the murder of 57 people, including 32 journalists, last Nov. 23. The fact that the defendants belong to a high-profile political clan should indicate that the trial would not be immune from the dilatory tactics that are part of the bag of tricks of any defense lawyer.

Malacañang is adding to the cacophony of noise and the extreme pressure being brought to bear on the poor judge, who after all had the gumption and strength of character to accept the case which other judges refused for fear of their lives. Obviously what is needed is for the Department of Justice and the judiciary to agree on measures that will expedite the trial.

As a start, perhaps there's wisdom in Arroyo's call for the number of defendants to be pared down. This would enable the number of witnesses to be trimmed and the hearings to be rationalized.

Secondly, Solis should concentrate on the case. Supreme Court Administrator Midas Marquez has defended Solis' decision to reset the opening of the trial, saying she was following established procedures to ensure due process. But it would help the Supreme Court check impressions that it lacks the political will to expedite a highly celebrated case if it could free Solis from her other cases so that she can concentrate on this particular case. In addition, the Supreme Court must come up with remedial rules of trial and suspend protocols causing delays in the case.

Both the executive and judicial branches should stop throwing bricks at each other and instead agree on measures that will speed up the trial. Failure to do so would merely abet the culture of impunity that has turned tragedies like the Nov. 23 massacre into the norm rather than the exception. Now more than ever, both branches should cooperate. They must avoid a failure of heart in the trial of the century. Or should that be two centuries?

Nicanor Abelardo as teacher

There is an intriguing photograph of our National Artist for Literature Amado V. Hernandez in a huddle with the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. Both men have cigarettes in their hands and seem to be discussing something important.

To find out more about the photograph, I asked Hernandez's widow, Honorata "Atang" de la Rama, also a National Artist, and got this curt reply, "Kapag lumabas sa bakuran namin ang asawa ko, wala akong pakialam. (When my husband is out of the house I don't care)." Taken out of context, this quote seems unfeeling, almost hostile, but that may have been one secret of their marriage.

Hernandez participated in the 1966 International War Crimes Tribunal organized by Bertrand Russell and Jean-Paul Sartre to investigate the U.S. intervention in Vietnam. If Hernandez's papers in the National Library are complete, the proceedings of this tribunal would be of historical interest for those studying the Vietnam War. There must be other photographs taken during the two meetings that were held in Stockholm and Copenhagen, maybe one of Hernandez with Russell.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The National Library Special Collections is in the Filipiniana Division and preserves collections of books, papers, photographs, clippings and memorabilia from various people: Amado Hernandez, Lope K. Santos, Higino Francisco, Raymundo Bañas and many others. It is a gold-mine for researchers. For example, it was here that Dr. Buenaventura Medina recovered "Orosman at Zafiro," a long lost three-act komedya by Francisco Baltazar, who is better known for "Florante at Laura."

Atang de la Rama was a great storyteller and I regret not recording the regular Sunday morning conversations we had on the phone. It would have made an engaging read like the best-selling "Tuesdays with Morrie." Atang would not talk of her personal life nor that of her husband, but she remembered much more.

Once she talked about occupational songs, those sung by coconut vendors, fishmongers, mataderos, etc. She not only remembered the lyrics, she actually sang these over the phone. Those songs are now lost unless some of them can be found in the papers of anthropologists H. Otley Beyer (now in the National Library of Australia) and E. Arsenio Manuel (presently unlocated).

Another time, Atang de la Rama told me stories about Nicanor Abelardo and how he drew music from everyday Philippine life or the experiences of his friends. The story of a friend's tragic love life was the inspiration for "Nasaan ka irog" and when Atang told him of the bawdy songs sung by the boatmen ferrying commuters on the Pasig River, the composer spent hours on a banca to catch the tunes and the lyrics of these songs. While sitting in the banca, Abelardo caught the rhythm and sway of the river that became a musical theme in the famous "Mutya ng Pasig."

Today Abelardo is a name we associate with the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater (Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo) and the UP Conservatory of Music in Diliman (Abelardo Hall). It is unfortunate that Abelardo is best remembered for a handful of iconic tunes, the romantic kundiman that he once called the true form of Philippine music and the academic hymn of the University of the Philippines "UP Beloved" that many students refer to as "U.P. Gilagid." While Abelardo is often associated with the kundiman, he outgrew this and composed "modern" music that is rarely performed today and not readily available on CD or on the Internet.

While going through my old notebooks in search of a column topic, I found my Abelardo interview notes with Atang de la Rama and Col. Antonino Buenaventura who would later become National Artists for Music. I also interviewed then UP College of Music dean Ramon Santos who was recently selected as National Artist but was not confirmed by the former President.

Then there was the short story writer Arturo B. Rotor, who turned out to be a medical doctor whose name is immortalized in medical literature for the "Rotor Syndrome," and also in botanical taxonomy because there are orchids that bear his name. Rotor took up music in UP and knew Abelardo as a teacher. Some of his students remember him taking alcohol as a stimulant before class thus Rotor narrated:

"Under his instruction, abstruse rules in harmony and counterpoint became clear and reasonable. What enormous patience he had. For although he knew all of them by heart, he was never too tired or too busy to explain them all over again for the twentieth time to the dullard. It was in the classroom that I first witnessed his extraordinary ability for harmony and counterpoint. He would take any exercise in our textbook, look at it once, and write it on the blackboard from memory without mistake. Then—what was the lesson about? Seventh chord harmonization? With chalk in hand, he would go from the first note to the last and harmonize that completely. Not for an instant would there be a break or pause in the march of his thought. Or—did we want a four-part counterpoint? In three minutes, that eight-part exercise would glitter with contrapuntal devices, perfect in every detail."

Browsing through my notes and files made me realize that this mess needs to be organized so that future researchers will benefit from the stray bits of obscure information I have gathered over the years.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

HERITAGE MONTH

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, and other officials clap their hands during yesterday's proclamation signing declaring September 2010 Cultural Heritage Month, in the governor's conference on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Inos also declared Sept. 18 shall be dedicated to Chief Aghurubw and all traditional chiefs.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela pose with DPS personnel during yesterday's proclamation signing for Child Passenger Safety Week and CNMI Seat Check Saturday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DANCE FESTIVAL

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores, center in black shirt, with Deputy Mayor of Nagoya City Satoshi Onishi to his left and Kunihiko Okada to his right, along the Northern Marianas Domonnaka dance team in Nagoya, Japan in August 2010. The annual dance festival attracted nearly 30,000 dancers from Japan, Korea, China, and the Northern Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Domonnaka dancers give their best during the Domatsuri Festival in Nagoya last Aug. 28. Started in 1999, the Nippon Domonnaka Matsuri, or Domatsuri for short, is the largest dance festival in the Chubu region held every mid-summer in central Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOUSE SESSION

Acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), center-above, is flanked by House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), left, and Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), right, during a session break Thursday afternoon. Also in photo are House journal clerk Linda Muna and House legal counsel Joe Taijeron.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NEW CHRISTIAN

Thessa Marie Royo poses with her parents at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe after her christening on Sept. 4, 2010.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thessa Marie Royo poses with her guests at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe after her christening on Sept. 4, 2010.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Teens mimic 'Glee' at summer camp and into fall

By SEANNA ADCOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MATTHEWS, N.C. (AP)—For 17-year-old Lizzie Guest, the TV show "Glee" was a life-changer, so when she heard about a summer camp based off the hit, she just had to enroll.

And given a chance for an encore, she signed up again.

The Charlotte Academy of Music's first Glee Camp in June sparked so much interest from students eager to replicate what they saw on TV, the academy added a second camp, plus created a Glee Club that started practicing last week. The camp was among a handful across the country that rode the wave of "Glee" popularity to create a show choir comeback.

At the Charlotte-area camp, 12- to 17-year-olds spent their days in an orange room with brown curtains that blocked the sunshine, learning to sing, twirl and march in sync.

"It was just the most fun in the world," said Guest, of Huntersville. "When I was younger, it was uncool to be in choir and show choir and all that kind of stuff, but now they see these people who are doing this, and they're sounding amazing. ... It's making people think that this is actually acceptable, and it's not just acceptable, it's awesome. People who are talented are now cool."

"Glee," Fox's hit freshman musical-dramedy, scored 19 Emmy nominations, the most of any series this year. It won four, including best supporting actress and directing for a comedy series.

AP

This Aug. 20, 2010 photo made from video shows, from left to right, Samantha Savery, 14, of Marshville, N.C., Malik Jefferson, 15, of Charlotte, N.C., and Ashley Martin, 17, of Mint Hill, N.C., as they participate in Charlotte Academy of Music's Glee Camp. The Charlotte Academy of Music's first Glee Camp in June sparked so much interest from students eager to replicate what they saw on the hit musical TV show, the academy added a second camp, plus created a Glee Club that started practicing last week.

"We're riding that wave right now," said Regina Ziliani, director of the 2-year-old academy, which offers private music and voice lessons, partly to fill in musical gaps in schools. "Everybody is just obsessed with 'Glee.'"

But its popularity comes as budget cuts prompt schools to further shrink their musical offerings for students.

Nonprofit community arts providers, many of which partner with local schools, also have been forced to reduce their offerings, cut staff and offer less financial aid amid the recession, according to the National Guild for Community Arts Education's May 2009 survey of its members.

"With shows like 'Glee' returning this fall, kids are going back to school with a greater desire to make music," said Scott Robertson, spokesman for California-based National Association of Music Merchants. "Many schools across the country continue to reduce music and arts education or cut music programs altogether. Yet, according to our latest research, kids want more than ever to learn how to play instruments, join the glee club, or perform in school musicals."

That's fueled not only by "Glee," he said, but also other music-making TV shows such as "iCarly," "Big Time Rush" and the "Camp Rock" movies.

It's difficult to measure the current popularity of glee camps and clubs, with officials at national music and camp organizations saying they haven't tracked it. But the number of accredited performing arts camps was already on the rise before the first season of "Glee" aired a year ago, from 527 in 2001 to 804 in 2007, according to the Indiana-based American Camp Association.

"Anecdotally, we know that several camps have added or revised their music program offerings based on the popularity of TV shows and movies," said association CEO Peg Smith. "Camps that specialize in music, theater, and the performing arts are popular options for families. There truly is a camp for every child."

At the Charlotte Academy of Music, teens said Glee Camp boosted their self-esteem, and parents who attended the end-of-week performance said it showed.

"She's been really happy. She goes around singing all the time," Susan Guest said of her daughter, Lizzie.

Fifteen-year-old Malik Jefferson of Charlotte, who wore his collar up while practicing to signify his love of '80s music, was excited about his first solo to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing."

"It certainly has boosted his confidence," said his mom, Mercedes Jefferson. "I've noticed a big difference just from listening to him practice throughout the week."

Later that week, he auditioned for and made the cut for Glee Club.

Camp instructor Tracy Davis Davenport expects to do it again next summer.

"I think they all come to camp because they want to aspire" to be like the cast of Glee, she said. "They get a glimpse of what actually happens."

New report: more grandparents raising grandkids

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of U.S. children being raised by their grandparents rose sharply as the recession began, according to a new analysis of census data. The reasons, while somber, were not all economic.

These grandparents often give themselves high marks as caregivers, but many face distinctive stresses as they confront unanticipated financial burdens and culture shock that come with the responsibilities of child-raising.

In all, roughly 7 million U.S. children live in households that include at least one grandparent, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the most recent Census Bureau data, from 2008. Of that number, 2.9 million were being raised primarily by their grandparents—up 16 percent from 2000, with a 6 percent surge just from 2007 to 2008.

"Clearly something was going on" in those years, said Pew senior researcher Gretchen Livingston, a co-author of Thursday's analysis. "We don't have the data to explicitly state that this is related to recession, but it's a very educated guess."

Reasons for grandparents taking over child-rearing duties are manifold—often involving a single parent who becomes overwhelmed with financial problems, is incarcerated, succumbs to illness or substance abuse, or dies. High rates of divorce and teen pregnancies fuel the phenomenon, as do long overseas deployments confronting some parents in the military.

"It's almost inevitable that there is some stress around the reason these grandparents and grandchildren come together," said Donna Butts, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Generations United.

"You're talking about older adults who have agreed to make some sacrifice in their life, and they need to have some support and respect," Butts said. "There are a lot of emotions that the children and the grandparents experience—an anger, a loss of their traditional role."

Roberta Jackson of Winston-Salem, N.C., went through that sort of emotional wringer eight years ago when she agreed to raise her grandson, Drew, who was 6 at the time, after his mother became incapacitated by bipolar disorder.

ON THE NET
Pew Center: http://pewsocialtrends.org/

"When he came to live with me, I had just retired," said Jackson, 63. "I had raised six children of my own, and I wanted to do what I wanted. Drew didn't want to be with me, and I really didn't want to be responsible for him."

For several years, Jackson said, Drew proved to be a disciplinary challenge - "The more rules I laid down, the more rebellious he got."

But she enrolled the two of them in counseling sessions, got support from local agencies and sought out a host of activities for Drew, including a Big Brothers Big Sisters program and a youth football league. Drew, who will turn 15 later this month, has improved his grades, and his grandmother hopes he's on track to go to college.

"We've become partners now," she said. "We've learned to trust each other."

Jackson is African-American and single. Overall, according to the Pew center, 34 percent of grandparent caregivers are unmarried and 62 percent are women.

The phenomenon of grandparents raising grandchildren has been proportionally higher among blacks and Hispanics than among whites, but the sharpest rise from 2007 to 2008 was among whites, with a 9 percent jump, according to Pew.

In all, 53 percent of the grandparent caregivers are white, 24 percent are black, and 18 percent Hispanic.

According to the Pew Center, most grandparents give themselves high marks for the role they are playing in their grandchildren's lives—with a majority saying they are doing a very good or excellent job and fewer than 10 percent rating themselves at "fair" or "poor."

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry notes that many children living with grandparents enter that arrangement with preexisting problems stemming from abuse, neglect, prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol, and loss of their parents.

"Many grandparents in this caretaking role underestimate or are unaware of the added burdens their new role as 'parents' will place upon them," warns the academy. It urges these grandparents to seek support and assistance from other family members, clergy, social agencies and mental health professionals.

In New York City, an array of special services are available onsite at a 50-unit apartment building in the Bronx specifically designed for grandparents raising grandchildren. There are support groups and counseling for the elders; art and academic programs for the kids.

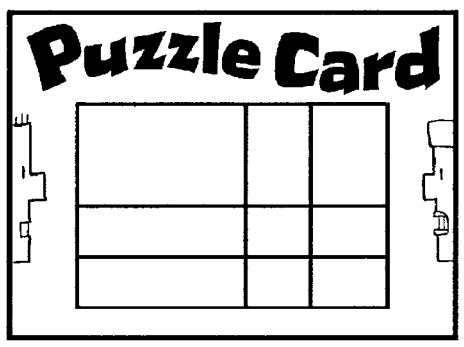
Financed by Presbyterian Senior Services and the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, the building has a long waiting list of more families wishing to get in.

Among the tenants is Annie Barnes, 67, who is raising two teens placed in her custody in 1994 when their father—Barnes' son—was fatally stabbed.

Back in 2005, when the apartment building opened and Barnes and her grandchildren moved in, she reflected on the turn her life had taken.

"When I turned 50 I wanted to do things for myself and travel places," she told the Gotham Gazette at the time. "I had to put my plan on hold to provide for my grandchildren."

Puzzle Card



HOW MANY RECTANGLES of varying sizes can you count in the above drawing?

Answer: There are 26 rectangles in the drawing.

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

STUFF AROUND THE HOUSE!

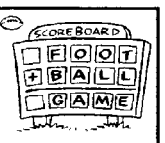
Illustrated by David Coulson

S	K	O	O	B	B	P	M	A	L	Y	C	E	S	O
M	T	N	F	S	M	U	S	N	P	R	H	L	T	E
D	R	E	S	S	E	R	T	I	O	D	A	D	N	R
R	E	V	L	I	S	L	L	H	M	N	I	D	A	E
A	F	O	S	B	C	L	T	C	T	U	R	I	L	T
D	E	G	A	R	O	T	S	T	N	A	S	R	P	S
I	E	J	I	W	P	G	B	Y	O	L	B	G	L	S
O	R	B	S	R	E	D	N	E	L	B	A	T	N	S

Hidden in the above diagram are the names of 21 items that are common to most households. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the items you will looking for.

Bathtub	Dresser	Plants
Blender	Goblets	Radio
Books	Griddle	Silver
Bottles	Lamp	Sofa
Chairs	Laundry	Stereo
China	Oven	Storage
Crib	Pillows	Table

SOLVE THIS ONE AND WIN THE GAME! To solve this AlphaMath problem, replace the letters on our scoreboard with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.



Our Answer: F=3, O=0, T=7, B=6, A=8, L=4, G=9, M=5, E=1 (3007 + 6844 = 9851).

CAN YOU "RISE" TO THIS CHALLENGE? Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

1. A supervisor.
2. An eating place.
3. Fish love it here.
4. Desperately urgent.

GRID A

B			
	A		
		K	
			E

GRID B

S			
	A		
		L	
			E

1. Sounds of distress.
2. To confront trouble.
3. A vegetable.
4. To be carried.

Answers: 1. Boss-sobs. 2. Cafe-face. 3. Lake-kale. 4. Dire-ride.

When pets can't shoot straight

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a tip for Kay, who wrote that her 9-month old Dachshund is trained to use a wet pad but tends to miss to one side. She could try using standard kitty-litter boxes, which have high sides. If they are too small for "Betty," another option is large plastic storage boxes. I have a 10-pound Chihuahua, and the storage boxes work perfectly. I keep an extra storage box so that I can wash the other one when it needs cleaning. I hope she gives it a try!—Teresa P., Manchester, N.Y.

DEAR TERESA: Thanks! Those are great suggestions, and I hope Kay will give them a try.

■ ■ ■

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: In regard to the letter about an owner's spayed female cat that was spraying over the edge of her litter box: I have two male cats and one female, and the males do that sometimes. My solution was to buy regular, no-lid litter boxes (I have three) because they're much easier to clean. Then I bought three 29-pound plastic tubs and turned them on their sides so the litter boxes fit right in.

I put one sheet of newspaper under the litter box, and one sheet against the back of the tub. This way the pee overspray doesn't puddle under the litter box. At cleaning time, I replace the paper, scoop the litter, quickly wipe down the sides of the tub ... and everybody's happy.—Lisa P., via e-mail

DEAR LISA: Great idea! That's a fast solution for cleanup as well. Thanks so much for sharing it!

■ ■ ■

Have a question about your pet? Contact Sam at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. And visit www.pawscorner.com for more information and resources!

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was existential psychologist Rollo May who made the following sage observation: "It is an ironic habit of human beings to run faster when we have lost our way."

■ Two countries are tied for the nation encompassing the most time zones. It's no surprise that Russia is one of them, but it seems odd that the other would be France. It's true, though; once you take a look at a map of French territories around the world, you'll see. There are French Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean, the island of Reunion off the east coast of Africa, various holdings in the Caribbean, and New Caledonia off the east coast of Australia, among others.

■ If you had to choose, would you rather be bitten by a skunk or sprayed by one? The creatures can't do both things at once.

■ Yes, there's a word for it: The plastic tips you find on shoelaces are known as aglets.

■ If you're a professional flute player, it's likely that your instrument is made from sterling silver, 14-carat gold or platinum.

■ A snail's teeth are located in rows along its tongue.

■ It's a commonly held belief that the Coriolis effect causes water to drain out of sinks and toilets in one direction in the Northern Hemisphere, while it drains in the opposite direction in the Southern Hemisphere. As it turns out, this isn't true. Drains are so small that the Coriolis effect has no measurable influence at all. It's the shape of the sink and whether or not it's level that determines the direction of the drainage.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Electricity is actually made up of extremely tiny particles called electrons, that you cannot see with the naked eye unless you have been drinking."—Dave Barry

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MAGIC MAZE ● POPULAR GIRLS NAMES IN SWEDEN

Z	J	F	B	X	U	Q	M	J	L	F	B	Y	U	R
O	K	H	D	A	A	X	U	Q	I	N	K	H	E	B
Y	V	S	P	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	A	M	J
H	E	B	Y	V	K	I	I	L	N	T	V	Q	O	L
I	G	D	J	B	A	C	C	L	E	L	Y	W	T	R
P	M	K	I	O	F	D	E	E	A	D	B	Y	W	U
S	Q	O	M	K	S	I	N	B	F	H	D	B	Z	X
W	U	S	A	M	M	E	A	A	E	H	T	Q	O	A
N	L	J	H	F	D	C	F	S	R	R	A	A	J	V
Y	W	V	T	S	A	P	P	I	L	I	F	A	N	O
Q	P	N	L	K	I	H	F	E	N	E	M	C	B	L

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Alexandra	Emma	Linnea	Nathalie
Alva	Filippa	Lova	Rebecka
Ella	Isabella	Maja	Thea
Elsa	Josefin	Miranda	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		21
–		+		÷	
	x		+		9
x		x		+	
	x		–		15
24		18		16	

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

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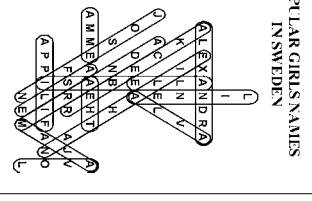
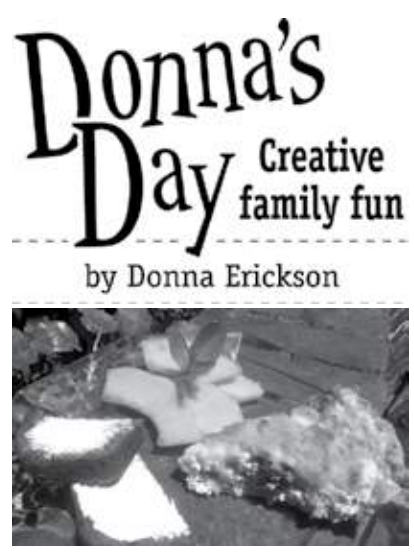
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	16		18		24
15	9	–	3	x	8
	+		x		x
9	1	+	4	x	2
	÷		+		–
21	7	x	2	–	5

Chicken and broccoli quiche for weekend brunch



What came first: the chicken or the egg? Both of them, in this hearty quiche! It's a twist on the continental classic with the surprising addition of chicken and broccoli. Your kids will want to get in on the action when you let them prepare the easy flaky crust. Yes, easy. Cream cheese is the secret ingredient that makes shaping the dough into the pie pan a breeze.

Invite friends over for a late-morning weekend brunch, and serve this unique quiche with fresh cantaloupe slices and your favorite pumpkin or banana bread. You'll have a perfect combination for an easy and tasty meal.

CHICKEN AND BROCCOLI FAMILY QUICHE

Ingredients for Easy Crust:
1/2 cup butter, softened
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 cup all-purpose flour
Pinch of salt

Place the butter and cream cheese in a large bowl. Add flour and salt. Work together with a pastry blender. Gather the soft dough into a ball with your hands and press into a 9-inch pie pan. This is a perfect job for your child to do. Simply set the ball in the middle of the pan, and press the dough out in all directions to extend slightly over the rim. Flute the edges with fingers. Refrigerate for an hour or more.

Ingredients for filling:
4 eggs
3/4 cup half-and-half
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups cooked chicken, cut or shredded into pieces
2 cups frozen, chopped broccoli, cooked and drained well
1 1/2 cups grated Swiss cheese*
1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese*
Nutmeg (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 450 F.
2. Beat eggs and mix with the half-and-half and salt in a small bowl.
3. Layer chicken, broccoli and cheeses in the pastry-lined pan. Pour egg mixture over the ingredients. Sprinkle nutmeg on top.
4. Bake 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 300 F and bake an additional 30 minutes, or until knife inserted comes out clean.
5. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting. Makes one 9-inch quiche cut into 6 servings.

* Substitute low-fat cheeses, if you prefer.

Tip: Prepare the crust and put it into the pan the day before. Cover and refrigerate.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

AT THE IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

International Peace Day celebrations begin tomorrow

THE Immanuel United Methodist Church is inviting Saipan residents to gather at their church in Chalan Kanoa for three International Peace Day celebrations. The first celebration (all free) of fun and educational peace games and crafts are planned noon to 2pm tomorrow, Sept. 12. It will continue next Sunday, Sept. 19, from noon to 2pm. The third is the International Peace Day Candlelight Peace Vigil and it will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 7pm to 7:30pm.

Pastor Millie Carroll said, "We have so much to learn about peace from children. They ask such wonderful and reasonable questions like, 'Why do people in that country not like ones in that other country and fight'? If children become prejudiced they learn it from others—they aren't naturally so. Wouldn't the world be wonderfully peaceful if we were all like that?"

All the fun and educational peace games and crafts are appropriate for children and youth. Adults may join! Making peace cranes, peace balloons, peace thaumatropes, peace banner, building a peace wall, peace face painting (with allergen-free paint), creating your own small peace snack are among the many activities. All games will emphasize peace, sharing and friendship.

Everyone is invited to gather at IUMC on International Peace Day, Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 7pm to 7:30pm for a Candlelight Peace Vigil. Saipan's peace vigil will join many others vigils around the world. Last Sunday, with their Sunday School teacher, Pam Carhill, children made candles that they can use at the vigil if they choose to attend.

"The vigil and all events and activities are non-political, non-religious, not against any specific war—only emphasizing peace which we think most of the world so hopes for," said Pastor Carroll. "The candlelight vigil will include famous short peace readings from various parts of the world and singing."

Saipan's International Peace Day candlelight peace vigil on Sept. 21 will be part of many others around the world. The Day of Peace was established by the United Nations in 1981.

Lay Leader Losana Rogoyawa said, "Famous sayings on peace will be scattered amongst the ones we write ourselves as we create the peace wall tomorrow and next Sunday. A photo of our peace wall will be sent to the United Nations to include in their worldwide peace messages."

All are invited to the free peace games and activities Sundays, Sept. 12, and 19, from noon to 2pm and the peace vigil on Sept. 21.

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Drive and Barbara Avenue (east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral). For further information, contact Millie Carroll at 322-6158. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children invite the public to three free International Peace Day celebrations, with fun and educational peace games, on Sept. 12, 19, and 21.

Jessica Simpson is 'Project Runway' finale judge

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Jessica Simpson took her seat as guest judge at Thursday's "Project Runway" show at New York Fashion Week in a super-short, sparkly silver minidress, but she had nothing on the models, who wore an extraordinary number of hot pants.

Ten aspiring designers showed their collections to Simpson, Heidi Klum, Michael Kors and Nina Garcia, although several knew they already didn't make the cut and won't be the Season 8 winner. But because the Lifetime show takes advantage of the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week backdrop for its finale, extra designers needed to participate to keep secret the winners and losers of episodes that haven't yet aired.

"Project Runway" was one of the big events on the day's roster at Lincoln Center, the new home for the seasonal fashion previews. Christian Siriano, an alum of the show, was to show his spring styles later in the day.

Opening the show, Klum, wearing a bright red menswear-style pantsuit and blouse, said she was particularly fond of this group. "I have never gotten so emotional or attached to the designers."

She promised the audience, which included singer Jordin Sparks and designer Betsey Johnson, that they'd see color and fantasy on the catwalk. The crowd also saw an uneven mix of runway-ready, masterful looks and gimmicky ones—especially those micro mini shorts that don't typically garner the best reviews when top-tier designers bring them back.

Sparks, now starring in Broadway's "In the Heights," said before the show that she couldn't imagine what was running through the designers' heads even though she was essentially in the same position on "American Idol." The difference, she said, was that she felt in control of her destiny because she was being judged on her voice.

In fashion, there were other players, including models, makeup artists and hairdressers, all contributing to the final product.

"I wish them all luck," Sparks said.

Johnson, a guest judge this season, said she saw "sparks of talent" among the designers but none of them quite captured her own signature flirty-girl look when they went off on a challenge to incorporate party supplies into wearable clothes. "It was not up my alley, but there definitely was talent."

Sara Bareilles and Pharrell? Awkward as it sounds

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The idea of Sara Bareilles and Pharrell working on music sounds odd enough—but it's not nearly as awkward as the actual event.

The piano-playing songstress was exploring a new sound for her sophomore CD when she decided to try and work with the hitmaker for Jay-Z, Justin Timberlake, Gwen Stefani and more. When she walked in for her recording session, Pharrell was getting a haircut.

It went downhill from there.

"I'm not a very good collaborator and I didn't really know how to do it. ... I felt really uncomfortable with just the process and so I think that's why we didn't really get anything out of it," Bareilles said.

AP

In this March 26, 2009 file photo, singer Sara Bareilles arrives for the concert event "One Splendid Evening," onboard the cruise ship Carnival Splendor in Los Angeles.

Though the 30-year-old earned Grammy nods for her breakthrough hit, "Love Song," Bareilles said she struggled to come up with new material for the follow-up to her platinum-selling 2007 debut, "Little Voice."

"I hadn't really prepared for what would come after that," she said.

Then she recorded "Uncharted," a pop tune about messing up—and moving along. Things got easier after that.

Bareilles talked recently about the steps that led to "Kaleidoscope Heart," out this week.

The Associated Press: Why is songwriting with others tough for you?

Bareilles: I'm not a great co-writer. I have a lot of respect for people that can do it well, I'm just terrible at it. ... I don't know. I feel like what comes out of it is always something I feel a sense of detachment to and it sort of makes me feel like, I don't know, unable or unwilling to want to sing it as a part of my normal repertoire.

AP: Those songs you recorded with Pharrell—where will they end up?

Bareilles: I would love to probably re-approach it instead of using what we ended up with. I'd love to do it again now that it's not such a new experience. I think I have that tendency where my knee-jerk reaction is to sort of clam up and close myself off from doing something I've never done before. And it's totally something I'm trying to let go of. I don't know why I get so, I don't know, nervous? I think I was star-struck, honestly.

AP: How did you come up with the first single?

Bareilles: "King of Anything" was sort of a pep talk, it's actually very similar to the way "Love Song" came about. ... It was written at the point where I was just starting to share the music and then people start to give you their feedback on it and you're like, "Oh, you don't like that part and you think I should change those words." (Laughs.) ... There's lots of people that aren't going to like this record, you know, that don't like my music anyway and people feel very vocal. Like, people are really brave in what they say to you these days.

AP: Did you always want to be a singer?

Bareilles: I don't know if I articulated that in my brain as a child, but I think I always felt like that was where I was the most confident and at peace and felt like it was my calling. I think I always thought I would do theater though because I grew up doing musical theater. So I think I always sort of anticipated, like, being on Broadway or something.

AP: Heading to Broadway soon?

Bareilles: Oh god I would love it. ... I have mad respect for the performers on Broadway and I would only want to do it if I could do an incredible job. ... So I think I would have some homework to do before I could step up on stage.

AP: A lot of contemporary singers have delved into a more electro-pop, dance sound. Are you next?

Bareilles: I feel like it would feel like wearing somebody else's underwear because it's really not (laughs) ... it doesn't feel kind of congruent with who I really think I am musically. But you never know. There's great collaborations out there and I think there would be a way to do it musically where it felt good to me, but it's not immediately a genre I've always loved or wanted to do.

AP: You should do a song with Carlos Santana.

Bareilles: Me and Santana? OK. Can you make that happen? Give him a call.

'California Gurls' is Billboard's top summer song

NEW YORK (AP)—Fine, fresh, fierce, she's got it on lock: Katy Perry's "California Gurls" is the top song of the summer.

According to Billboard, Perry's groove with Snoop Dogg is the summer's No. 1 tune.

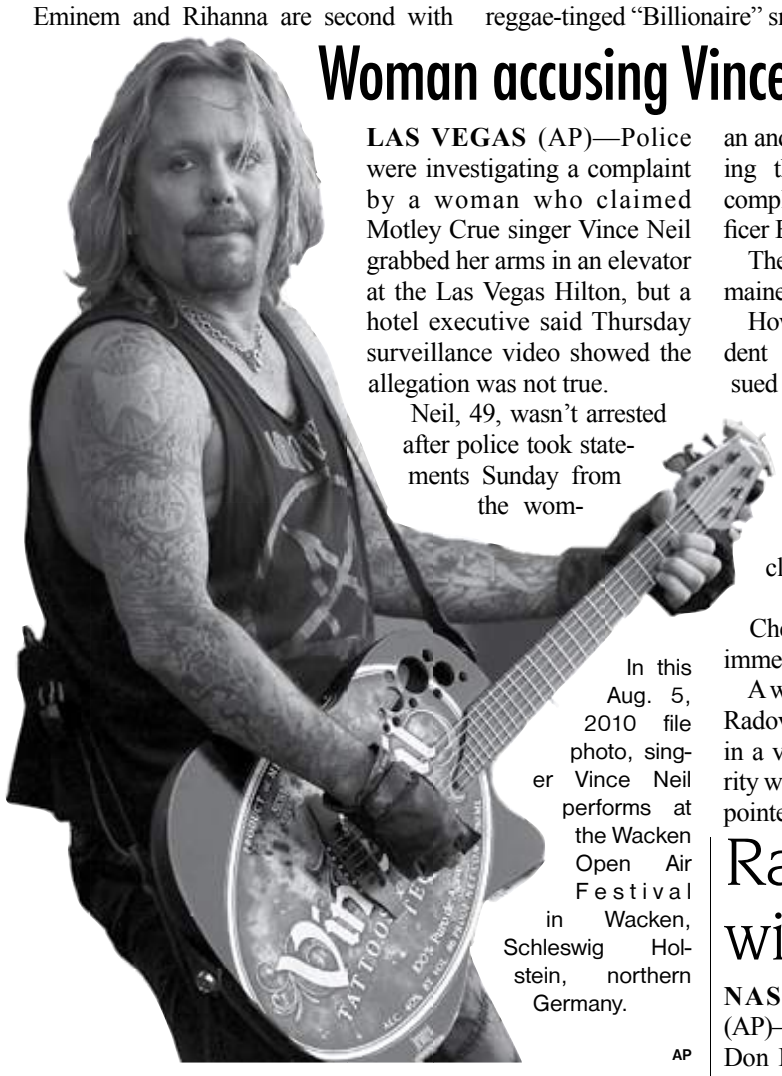
Eminem and Rihanna are second with "Love the Way You Lie," followed by B.o.B and Hayley Williams with "Airplanes."

Usher and will.i.am's club hit "OMG" is fourth, Taio Cruz comes in fifth with "Dynamite" and Travie McCoy and Bruno Mars' reggae-tinged "Billionaire" snag sixth.

Mike Posner's "Cooler than Me" is seventh, Enrique Iglesias and Pitbull score eighth with party song "I Like It" and Drake comes in ninth with "Find Your Love."

Eminem is the only artist to appear twice on the list. He's also at No. 10 with "Not Afraid."

Woman accusing Vince Neil of grabbing her in Vegas



In this Aug. 5, 2010 file photo, singer Vince Neil performs at the Wacken Open Air Festival in Wacken, Schleswig Holstein, northern Germany.

AP

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police were investigating a complaint by a woman who claimed Motley Crue singer Vince Neil grabbed her arms in an elevator at the Las Vegas Hilton, but a hotel executive said Thursday surveillance video showed the allegation was not true.

Neil, 49, wasn't arrested after police took statements Sunday from the woman and two other people regarding the misdemeanor battery complaint, Las Vegas police Officer Barbara Morgan said.

The police investigation remained open.

However, Hilton vice president Kenneth Ciancimino issued a statement saying video footage from the elevator indicated the claim against Neil was completely unfounded.

"We consider the matter closed," he said.

Neil's lawyer David Chesnoff was unavailable for immediate comment.

A woman identified as Jessica Radovicz reiterated her claim in a video posted on the celebrity website TMZ.com. In it, she pointed to faint bruises she said she received on her upper arms.

There was no indication Neil knew the woman, and she didn't report to police that she was physically injured, Morgan said.

Neil owns tattoo shops and bars in Las Vegas, including a cantina at the Hilton.

Neil is due in court Sept. 27 on separate misdemeanor drunken driving and speeding charges. He has not yet entered a plea.

He is accused of driving his Lamborghini sports car 60 mph (100 kph) in a 45 mph (70 kph) zone before being stopped June 27 near the Las Vegas Strip.

A court document alleges he had a blood-alcohol content of 0.08 percent, the state's legal limit for drivers.

Final 4 acts advance on 'America's Got Talent'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three very different singers and a group of special-effects wizards got talent—and votes.

Soulful 30-year-old crooner Michael Grimm, flashy 32-year-old showman John "Prince Poppycock" Quale, 10-year-old opera phenom Jackie Evancho and 13-man performance troupe Fighting Gravity are advancing to the "America's Got Talent" finale. The four acts were revealed Wednesday to have received the most viewer votes on the NBC variety competition.

"It feels like a dream come true," beamed Evancho after the show Wednesday.

Evancho, the sprightly singing sensation who displays more natural effervescence offstage than any Nickelodeon or Disney Channel star, reached Susan Boyle status online this summer with her surprisingly classical opera style. The Pittsburgh native doesn't know what she'll sing in next Tuesday's finale but hopes to wear a "bigger, prettier dress."

The 13 fraternity brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., that make up Fighting Gravity plan to top their space-themed routine from Tuesday's episode with a new performance which promises to be "beyond space." The team, reminiscent of the Blue Man Group, utilize black lights and other props to create illusions within darkness.

"It's a tremendous amount of pressure," said 22-year-old member Danny Kang, one of three members that are actually visible in their routines. "We really, really want to step it up this time and just blow people away. We don't want to play it safe. We are going to take some risks this time. There are going to be some safety concerns in this routine."

Michael Grimm, the soft-spoken singer from Waveland, Miss., isn't sure about what he'll do for the finale after performing Tuesday for the first time on "America's Got Talent" without his guitar. Grimm, who collects stamps when off stage, said he's considering delivering a ballad with his guitar then taking it off for the rest of the performance.

"I don't know," he said. "I didn't think I was going to make it through tonight."

There are already several ideas for the next routine from Prince Poppycock, the outlandish operatic creation of Quale, whose previous spectacles include belting out "Bohemian Rhapsody" while smashing blue-and-white china and chirping "Yankee Doodle Dandy" in front of leggy backup dancers sporting U.S. flags and a replica of the Capitol building.

Rascal Flatts' Rooney, wife welcome daughter

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Rascal Flatts guitarist Joe Don Rooney and wife Tiffany Fallon have a new baby.

Fallon gave birth to a healthy girl named Raquel Blue early Tuesday morning. A statement from Rascal Flatts' publicist says mother and daughter are doing well.

Rooney says he and his wife "feel blessed and are ready for the sleepless nights ahead."

The couple's first child, big brother Jagger Donovan Rooney, was born in 2008.

The next several months promise to be busy for Rooney and his bandmates. They return to the road later this month and release a new album in November. Bassist Jay DeMarcus and his wife, Allison, are expecting their first child in January.

Eminem set to open MTV Video Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eminem is ready to kick off the MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV general manager Stephen Friedman said Wednesday that the rapper, who's nominated for eight trophies and continues to sit atop sales charts with "Recovery," will open Sunday's ceremony at the Nokia Theatre, which has been transformed with a sprawling white set reminiscent of the out-of-this-world Theme Building at the Los Angeles International Airport.

"We thought that there's no better way to kick off the show than a performance from Eminem," said Friedman.

The enveloping stage design includes a giant rotating billboard, curvy catwalk, circular performance space and two massive video screens that will serve as curtains. VMA executive producer Jesse Ignjatovic said the undulating space, created by German designer Florian Wieder, required about 2,000 orchestra seats to be removed from the Nokia Theatre.

"Every year, we try to have a theme and purpose beyond just giving awards away," said Ignjatovic. "This year, being back in Los Angeles, we really gravitated toward mid-century modern architecture and the pop culture of the '50s, like the youth-oriented rebellion films 'Rebel Without a Cause' and 'Wild Ones.' It's a very L.A. kind of a set."

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2010, file photo, rapper Eminem performs at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Teen cries foul over dad's invasion of her cell phone

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Like most 16-year-old girls, I have a cell phone. My father pays for it and I'm grateful that he does, even though I live with my mom and he's a two-hour drive away. He has been paying for it for a year and a half.

Every month when I visit him he demands to see my phone. Then he looks through my messages and photos. There's nothing "bad" on my phone, but I feel my personal space is being invaded. I brought it up to him a few times, but he just said, "Deal with it!" He said if I don't want him to see something, I should delete it.

What can I do to get my dad to respect my privacy? I feel he wants to control my life. I want my own space.

GETTING GRIEF IN GRANTS PASS, ORE.

DEAR GETTING GRIEF: I'm sure your father means well, but his attempt at "supervision" when you visit him seems heavy-handed. The first thing you should do is discuss your feelings with your mother. Perhaps she can help him understand that you're mature enough to be trusted. But if that doesn't work, you will have to figure out a way to come up with the money to pay for your own cell phone.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father went to prison when I was 2 months old. My mother and maternal grandparents made sure I had a relationship with him through phone calls and letters. They told me early on what he did, and I have worked through it.

After 22 years and eight parole hearings, my father has been granted a parole. He will be home with my paternal grandparents in October. I'm happy and excited, but he's trying to make up for lost time. He has a son who wants nothing to do with any of us, so it's all left to me. He said, "Your mother had you for the first 22 holidays. I get the next 22," and he expects me to spend the entire first week he's home at my grandparents' house with him.

I am very close to my mom and younger siblings. I love our holiday traditions and don't want to give any of that up. Furthermore, I'm not comfortable staying at my grandparents' home. I don't know them well, and I don't sleep well in strange places.

I work full-time, go to school and have my own house with my fiance. I think my father wants more than I am ready to give right now. What do I do?

FEELING ANXIOUS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ANXIOUS: Your father is starved for family, which is understandable, but he has overlooked the fact that rebuilding a relationship can't be done on a seven-day timetable. What you need to do is tell him that he is demanding more than you are ready, able and comfortable giving -- and you would prefer to get to know him at your own pace. And stand by that, or he may devour you as he tries to make up for all the years he has wasted because of his mistakes. Frankly, I think his demand is presumptuous, and I'm glad you wrote.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have two large dogs. They are very sweet, but they are young and can be hyperactive. On more than one occasion guests have requested that I put my dogs outside so they can be more comfortable.

I feel it's rude to ask such a thing when it is the dogs' home. They knew about my dogs prior to the visit. Am I wrong for not catering to my guests? Or are my guests wrong for even asking?

BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE IN ARIZONA

DEAR BARKING: It is your responsibility as a pet owner to control your dogs and teach them good manners. If the presence of guests on the premises so overstimulates the dogs that they can't control themselves, then as a gracious host, you should remove them so they can calm down -- or not entertain at your home.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, THIS IS CERTAINLY A SORRY CHAPTER IN G.R.O.S.S. HISTORY! FIRST TIGER HOBBES, A TRAITOR TO THE CAUSE!
IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT AFTER I WON SUSIE'S CONFIDENCE, I DID SOME SPYING.
SPYING? YOU WERE A SPY?!
I READ AN OPEN PAGE OF SUSIE'S DIARY.
WOW! DEEP IN ENEMY TERRITORY, YOU INTERCEPTED A SECRET MESSAGE? WHAT DID IT SAY?!
IT SAID, "CALVIN IS A PIG-FACED SMELLY FAT-HEAD!"
THEN OUR CLUB IS A SUCCESS! BRILLIANT WORK, HOBBES! PROMOTIONS FOR EVERYONE! WELCOME BACK!
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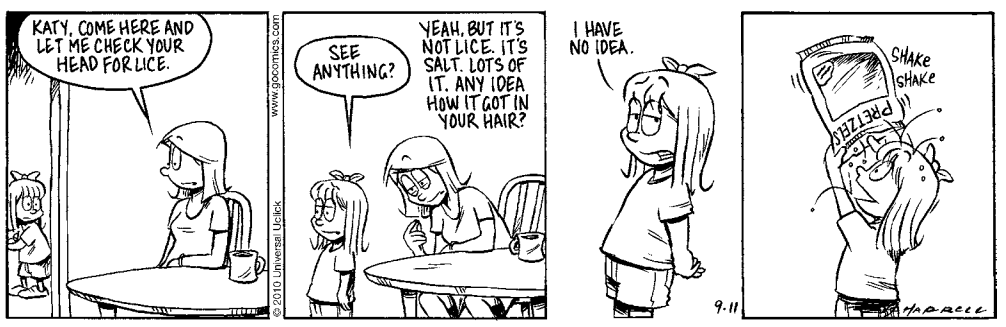
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY, COME HERE AND LET ME CHECK YOUR HEAD FOR LICE.
SEE ANYTHING?
YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT LICE. IT'S SALT. LOTS OF IT. ANY IDEA HOW IT GOT IN YOUR HAIR?
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
I HAVE NO IDEA.
9-11
SHAKE SHAKE
PRETZEL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW'S THE JOB-HUNTING GOING?
I WAS OFFERED A JOB AT A RESEARCH LAB.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
9-11
THEY WANT TO TEST SOME NEW SNACK FOODS ON ME.
TO SEE IF THEY'RE SAFE TO GIVE TO GUINEA PIGS.
www.gocomics.com
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

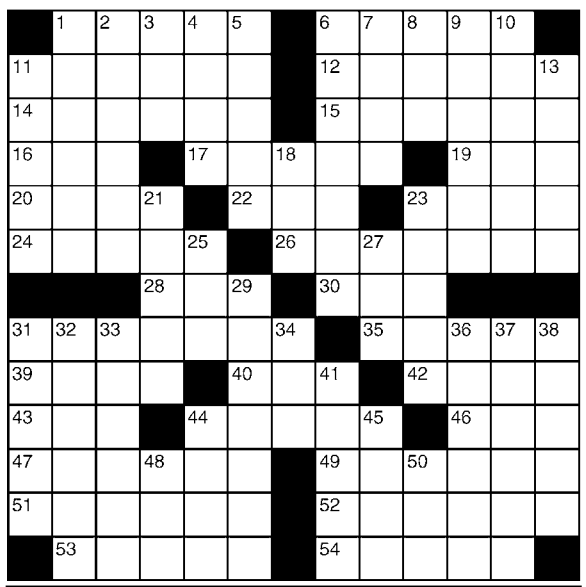
ACROSS
1 Power boost
6 Combines resources
11 Arm of the Mediterranean
12 Talia's "Rocky" role
14 On the — (at risk of exclusion)
15 Talk turkey?
16 Mound stat
17 "Forever —"
19 Cornetist Beiderbecke
20 Farm fraction
22 Verily
23 Carte
24 Unkempt
26 Added numbers?
28 Assn.
30 252 gallons of wine
31 Citrusy pop choice
35 Rise up (against)
39 Divorcees, e.g.
40 Disencumber
42 It has its ups and downs
43 Calendar abbr.
44 Arousing pessimism
46 Plead
47 Unruly mob
49 Bite a bit
51 Ogling sort
52 High nests
53 Decelerates
54 Angle

DOWN
1 Origin
2 Releases a deadbolt
3 Cage component
4 Big affair
5 Adversary
6 Beauty contest
7 Stench
8 Sphere
9 Equal rights advocate, slangily
10 Like ocean water
11 Construction piece
13 Link
18 Spelldown
21 Quartet from Mississippi
23 Cash
25 Thither
27 Scoundrel
29 Hair-care items
31 Big name in retail
32 Those who leave their homeland
33 SAT section
34 Chart type
36 Reel
37 Shoelace hole
38 Theater boxes
41 Carvey and Delany
44 Huffed and puffed
45 Richard who played 007 foe "Jaws"
48 Street address?
50 A couple of cups?

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	O	O	T	H	■	A	R	F	■	S	A	M
R	A	M	I	E	■	C	O	O	■	A	V	E
A	R	E	N	A	■	C	A	R	A	M	E	L
■	■	L	E	T	T	E	R	■	S	O	R	E
A	L	E	■	H	O	D	■	P	H	A	S	E
P	A	T	H	■	N	E	V	E	R	■	■	■
R	O	S	A	R	Y	■	A	P	A	C	H	E
■	■	■	N	A	S	A	L	■	M	A	I	N
B	E	A	S	T	■	R	U	B	■	M	M	E
E	R	G	O	■	P	I	E	R	C	E	■	■
E	N	A	M	E	L	S	■	A	L	L	A	Y
F	I	T	■	F	E	E	■	N	I	O	B	E
S	E	E	■	T	A	N	■	D	O	T	E	S

Yesterday's answer 9-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ludacris, 33; Taraji P. Henson, 40; Harry Connick Jr., 43; Virginia Madsen, 49

Happy Birthday: Trust in yourself and your abilities. Stick to your goals and you will achieve what you set out to do. Let the frustrations and limitations you faced in the past guide you to do things the right way now. Be true to yourself -- it will make you feel good about who you are and what you are doing. Your numbers are 5, 13, 18, 21, 27, 34, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look around you and take note of what everyone is doing. You are always too quick to do for others, but right now it's important to let others do for you. Eliminate dead weight so you can move forward. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Mixing business with pleasure may be a bit of a drag but rest assured, the results you get will be worth your while. You will find out you have more in common with someone you must collaborate with, making your job a little easier. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may think you have a handle on what's developing but think again. You appear to be running into some roadblocks that could cost you financially. Protect your assets and don't promise the impossible. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll have to balance a lot of projects and emotional issues. Someone counting on you will cause havoc if you don't come through. Make sure you put time aside to regenerate. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Real estate sales and purchases look good and can bring about what's required for you to get on with your life. Something you've wanted to do for some time will now be made possible. A passionate encounter is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get involved in activities or events where you can meet people with similar interests. This is the time to explore new avenues, make new friends and offer what you can to relatives and neighbors. Love is on the rise and good fortune is within reach. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Added stress due to someone's actions can be expected. You'll be in a vulnerable position because of obligations you feel you must live up to. Communication is all it will take to turn things around. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be feeling an emotional tug between your lover or personal life and your career. Unless you satisfy both, you aren't likely to get any rest or approval. Take a practical approach and offer what you can to both. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Recognition will be yours but make sure you deserve credit. Offering something that isn't yours to give or taking credit for something you didn't do will cause a problem with someone who feels jilted by your actions or comments. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't get angry or difficult, even if things don't go your way. Showing good sportsmanship will do a lot for your reputation and will open a door to a deal you hadn't considered in the past. Money is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let your heart lead you down a potentially difficult and volatile path. What hasn't worked in the past isn't likely to work out now. Focus on how you can budget wisely and make more cash using one of your skills. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will thrive on change and new beginnings. Love, contracts and promises will all lead to a brighter future. Your imagination will bring about an offer or proposal that you can use to fulfill your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, thirsty for knowledge and insightful when dealing with emotional matters and affairs of the heart. You are determined and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		6				9	
8								4
				9	3			
		6		8				9
		3		4		7		
2				6		1		
			7	1				
1								6
	8				4		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	1	5	6	7	4	8	2
7	5	4	2	9	8	3	6	1
6	2	8	3	4	1	9	5	7
8	4	3	7	2	9	6	1	5
2	7	9	6	1	5	8	3	4
5	1	6	4	8	3	2	7	9
3	6	2	1	7	4	5	9	8
4	9	7	8	5	6	1	2	3
1	8	5	9	3	2	7	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORS **Solution: 7 letters**

D	S	A	D	(F)	E	R	U	S	A	E	M	H	P	P
R	N	L	T	A	(F)	D	E	F	L	A	T	I	O	N
P	E	A	E	T	O	(U)	C	H	N	L	N	R	S	O
A	Y	K	P	V	A	L	(C)	U	A	F	T	E	I	I
R	R	R	R	X	E	C	A	E	L	A	D	A	T	T
W	E	A	O	A	E	L	H	A	B	I	R	D	I	A
B	S	S	T	T	M	S	T	I	A	D	O	I	O	C
V	A	L	U	E	S	I	L	S	S	A	C	N	N	I
P	L	N	M	L	O	I	T	U	R	T	E	G	I	D
Q	O	O	D	N	T	O	H	M	P	E	R	S	N	E
U	R	T	E	Y	L	S	S	T	E	G	D	A	G	M
Y	T	T	S	I	M	O	D	E	L	E	N	A	P	E
E	N	U	C	E	Y	G	O	L	O	N	H	C	E	T
Z	O	B	K	I	T	S	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	E
E	C	I	L	O	T	S	Y	S	T	R	O	P	E	R

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Arms, Attach, Band, Button, Control, Cuff, Date, Deflation, Diastolic, Expand, Gadget, Health, History, Inflation, Kits, Levels, Load, Manual, Marker, Measure, Medication, Memory, Meter, Model, Panel, Portability, Positioning, Pulse, Rate, Readings, Record, Reports, Response, Results, Stop, Strap, Systolic, Technology, Test, Touch, Value, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Lyrics

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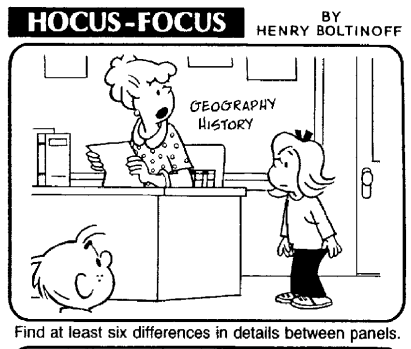
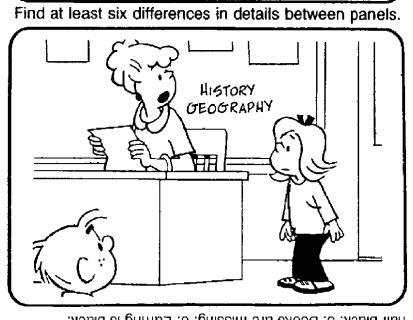
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Blackboard writing is inverted. 2. Teacher's dress is not dotted. 3. Doorknob is missing. 4. Shoes are half black. 5. Books are missing. 6. Earring is black.

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Wishing Well®

8	7	2	3	6	3	6	8	4	8	7	6	5
T	C	E	E	E	X	X	E	R	A	O	E	R
7	8	4	6	4	7	6	7	5	4	3	7	6
N	C	E	R	S	S	T	I	E	T	P	D	I
2	8	4	8	5	8	7	8	4	7	5	3	2
X	H	R	S	M	U	E	C	I	R	A	E	P
7	4	2	4	5	6	4	3	4	7	4	5	2
A	C	E	T	I	D	I	C	O	C	N	N	C
4	7	5	3	8	5	2	3	4	7	5	2	6
L	H	P	T	C	O	T	T	I	A	I	S	E
3	4	7	4	6	3	2	5	2	8	2	4	2
O	F	N	T	A	W	U	S	R	E	P	E	R
5	7	8	5	8	2	4	3	7	3	2	6	2
E	G	S	D	S	I	D	I	E	N	S	S	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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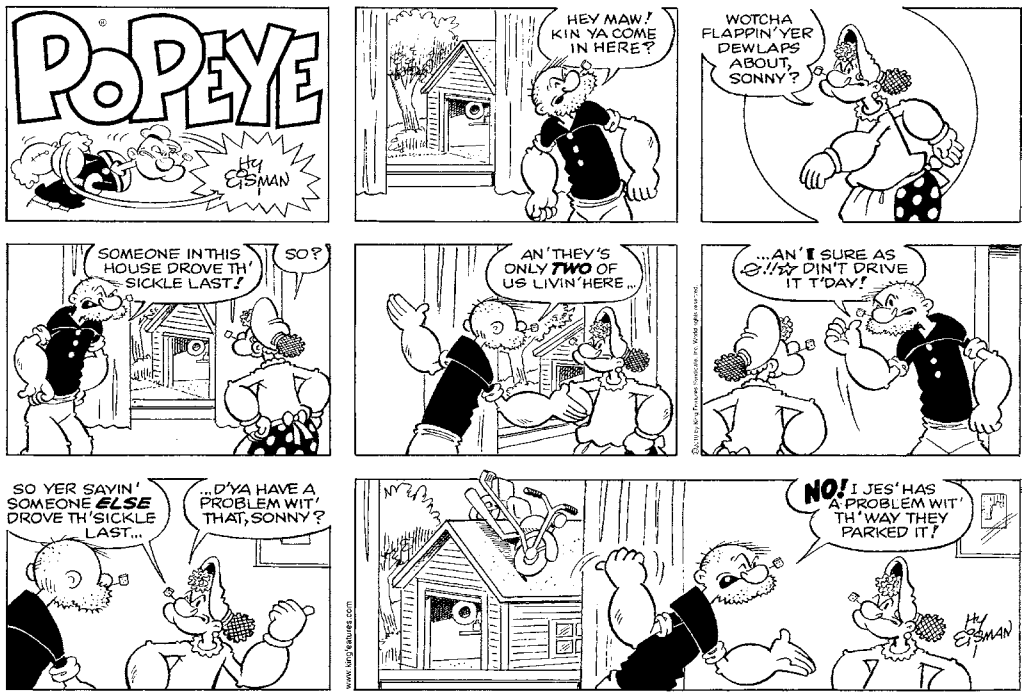
POPEYE
Hey SISMAN
HEY MAW! KIN YA COME IN HERE?
WOTCHA FLAPPIN'YER DEWLAPS ABOUT, SONNY?
SOMEONE IN THIS HOUSE DROVE TH' SICKLE LAST!
SO?
AN' THEY'S ONLY TWO OF US LIVIN' HERE..
...AN' I SURE AS @!!☆ DIN'T DRIVE IT T'DAY!
SO YER SAYIN' SOMEONE ELSE DROVE TH' SICKLE LAST...
..D'YA HAVE A PROBLEM WIT' THAT, SONNY?
NO! I JES' HAS A PROBLEM WIT' TH' WAY THEY PARKED IT!
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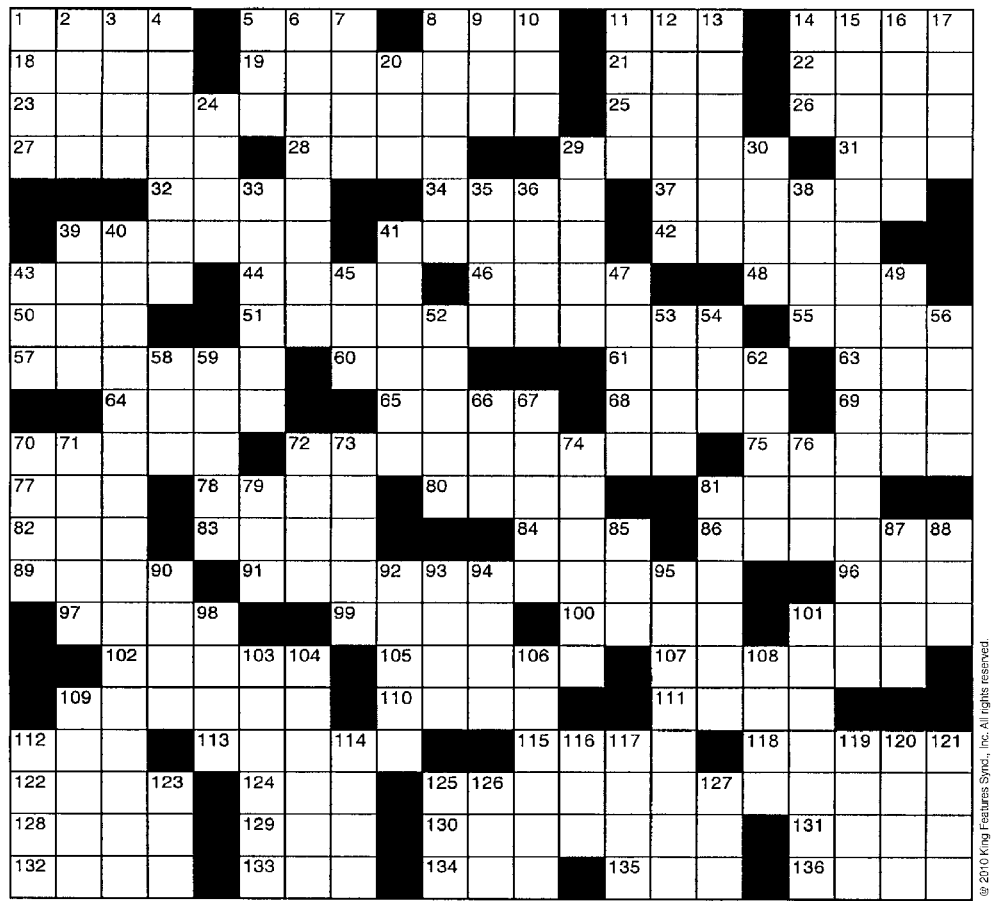
ACROSS

1 Piglet's papa
5 It's up your sleeve
8 Waugh's "The Loved —"
11 Vapor
14 — check
18 Eban of Israel
19 Geometric figure
21 Hibiscus garland
22 Commedia dell'—
23 Scott Hamilton's rival
25 Chemical ending
26 Obtains
27 New Hampshire campus
28 — ex machina
29 Jury members
31 "Ready! —! Go!"
32 Ordered
34 Gilpin of "Frasier"
37 21st President
39 Chews the scenery
41 Annual award
42 Bewitching location
43 Dealt with a dragon
44 — -Japanese War
46 Harvest
48 Hurler Hershiser
50 Rock's — Supply
51 Scott Wolf series
55 With 89 Across, "Batman" star
57 Al of "Insomnia"
60 Bond rating
61 High-flying agcy.
63 Claire or Balin
64 Component
65 Nab a gnat
68 Adjusted an ascot
69 Mil. base
70 Show indifference
72 Scott Baio co-star
75 Column style
77 Flicka's food
78 Lohengrin's love
80 Actress Mia
81 Reject
82 Periodontists' org.
83 Wander
84 With 120 Down, Bowzer's group
86 Uproar
89 See 55 Across
91 Scott Glenn film
96 Liechtenstein's cont.
97 Command at a corner
99 Iridescent stone
100 Atmosphere
101 Hotels
102 Shortstop Pee Wee
105 Vatican virtue
107 99 and 007
109 "The Producers" star
110 — vera
111 "Fantasia" frames
112 Prohibit
113 On — (doing great)
115 Vittle statistics?
118 "April Love" singer
122 Riyadh resident
124 By means of
125 Scott Joplin composition
128 Hint
129 Sixth sense
130 Varnish
131 Pavlova or Paquin
132 Table d'—
133 Dem.'s opponent
134 Predatory fish
135 Theater sign
136 "— my lips!"

DOWN

1 Conifer covering
2 Bassoon relative
3 Singer Lane
4 Heavenly sight
5 4 Down's shape
6 Zimbabwe, formerly
7 Grimace
8 San Luis —, CA
9 TV's "The Flying —"
10 Slalom curve
11 Merriment
12 Vergil's vagabond
13 — Leone
14 Give in to gravity
15 Scott Turow novel
16 Furry fisherman
17 Try out
20 East Lansing coll.
24 Tidy
29 Damascus dish
30 Normandy site
33 Tyrant
35 Spanish river
36 Shorten a sail
38 Olympic first lady
39 Director Kazan
40 Scott Carpenter's profession
41 ". . . say — do"
43 Fool
45 New Deal agcy.
47 1492 vessel
49 Hawaiian island
52 Applauds a bore?
53 Self-smitten
54 Language suffix
56 Not fem.
58 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
59 Neighbor of Mali
62 "Farewell!"
66 "I — Rock" ('66 hit)
67 Museum piece
70 Clarinetist Artie
71 Hot spot?
72 "Comic Dictionary" author
73 Dack of "Dallas"
74 New Jersey city
76 Baseball's "Master Melvin"
79 Bud's buddy
81 Sail with Sinbad
85 — Simbel
87 Kennel features
88 Cen. segments
90 Stocking stuffers?
92 Horrify
93 Brad, for one
94 Role for Liz
95 Prophetic
98 Wilson of "La Femme Nikita"
101 To such an extent
103 Restaurant employee
104 Plaza Hotel kid
106 Tone down
108 Isle near Corsica
109 Mrs. Phil Donahue
112 Baroque composer
114 Certain Finn
116 Pipe connection
117 "I Remember Mama" character
119 Sarah — Jewett
120 See 84 Across
121 "My word!"
123 Hum bug?
125 Flavor enhancer: Abbr.
126 "Gotcha!"
127 System starter



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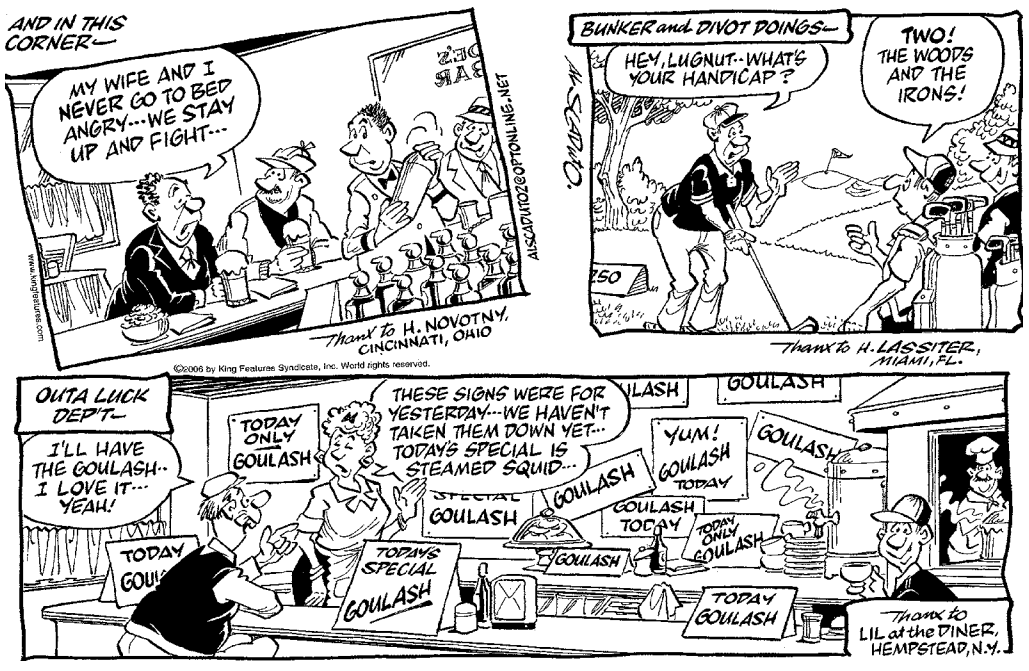
They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


AND IN THIS CORNER—
MY WIFE AND I NEVER GO TO BED ANGRY...WE STAY UP AND FIGHT...
Thank to H. NOVOTNY, CINCINNATI, OHIO
BUNKER and DIVOT DOINGS—
HEY, LUGNUT--WHAT'S YOUR HANDICAP?
TWO! THE WOODS AND THE IRONS!
Thanx to H. LASSITER, MIAMI, FL.
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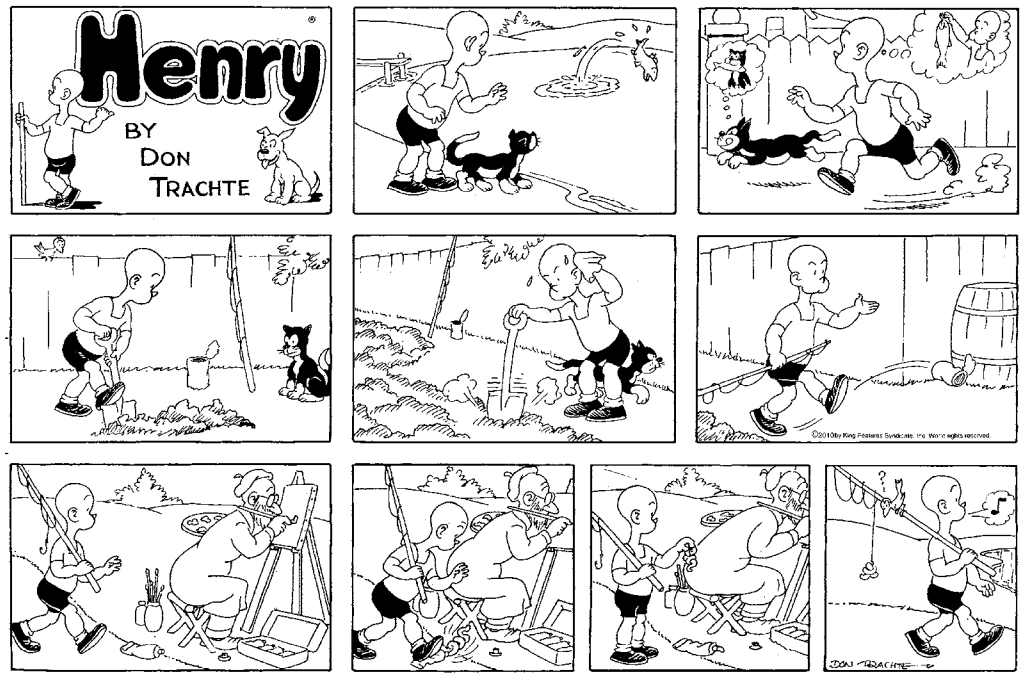
OUTTA LUCK DEP'T—
I'LL HAVE THE GOULASH.. I LOVE IT... YEAH!
TODAY ONLY GOULASH
THESE SIGNS WERE FOR YESTERDAY...WE HAVEN'T TAKEN THEM DOWN YET... TODAY'S SPECIAL IS STEAMED SQUID...
YUM! GOULASH TODAY
TODAYS SPECIAL GOULASH
Thank to LIL at the DINER, HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "There is nothing more exhilarating than to be shot at without result"?
2. GAMES: What five sports are included in the modern Olympic pentathlon?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of London's square-mile financial district?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many furlongs are in a mile?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many eyes do bees have?
6. MOVIES: What was the first X-rated movie to win an Oscar?
7. TELEVISION: What was the name of the pet chimpanzee on "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
8. FIRSTS: What famous women's-rights leader was arrested for voting illegally in the 1872 presidential election?
9. LITERATURE: How old is Harry Potter when he discovers he's a wizard?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many colors are represented in a rainbow?

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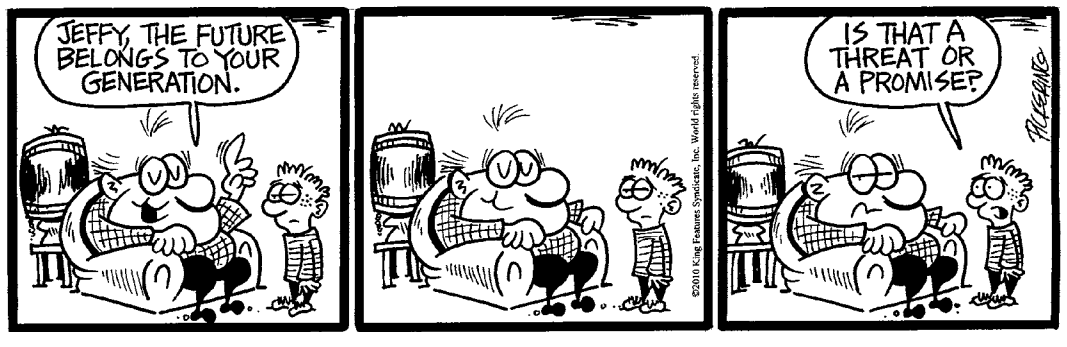
Answers

1. Winston Churchill
2. Freestyle swimming, cross-country running, show jumping on horseback, pistol shooting and épée fencing
3. City of London
4. Eight
5. Five – two compound eyes and three simple eyes
6. "Midnight Cowboy"
7. Cousin Bessie
8. Susan B. Anthony
9. 11
10. Seven

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


JEFFY, THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOUR GENERATION.
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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Angamwas rules 4-person
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Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC boa
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaratio
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Oba
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 millio fund seven programs and projects is tained in the Conference Report on Year 2010 Consolidated Appropri Act, a $447-billion spending meas
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10 DAYS to go before Christmas
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Find today's solution in this section

Brees, Saints survive tough opener vs. Vikes, 14-9

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—For football fans in the Big Easy, "Lombardi Gras" just keeps on rolling.

Drew Brees and the Saints extended New Orleans' post-Super Bowl euphoria for at least another week and denied Brett Favre a victory in the Louisiana Superdome one more time.

Brees completed 27 of 36 passes for 237 yards and one touchdown, and the Saints survived a hard-fought season opener for a 14-9 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday night.

It wasn't the most spectacular way to open a title defense, considering it was a rematch of the riveting 2009 NFC title game last January, which the Saints won in overtime to advance to their first Super Bowl.

"We're not used to 14-9 victories, but we're used to winning," said Brees, the reigning Super Bowl MVP. "So we like the W."

It was the lowest-scoring victory of the Sean Payton era, which began in 2006, but the Saints will take it, especially after their defense limited Favre to 171 yards passing and one touchdown.

"I know people are going to say it wasn't the fireworks they expected it to be," Favre said.

Although his offense was far less potent than usual, Payton said he "was proud of the way we came through and made enough plays to start the season 1-0."

Unlike the NFC championship game, the Vikings didn't lose a fumble and turned the ball over only once on Jonathan Vilma's interception of Favre, who made an ill-advised throw as Roman Harper hit him on a safety blitz.

Also unlike their previous meeting, the Saints had most of the statistical advantages, outgaining Minnesota 308 yards to 253 and controlling the ball for 33:43, compared to 26:17 for Minnesota.

"We knew we would have to play better in a lot of areas than we did last year (against the Vikings) and I felt like we did," Brees said. "We just showed that we can win in a lot of different ways."

New Orleans might have won the game more easily if not for two missed field goals by Garrett Hartley, who kicked the dramatic winning field goal last year.

Still, New Orleans was able to kneel on the ball to run out most of the last two minutes after Pierre Thomas capped a 71-yard, one-touchdown performance with 10-yard, first-down run right after the 2-minute warning.

Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, who rushed for 122 yards and three TDs in the last meeting, rushed for 87 yards on 19 carries against New Orleans' stingy defense.

"We did a very good job of holding against the run and still taking some of the downfield throws away," Payton said.

Although the game was competitive, it hardly lived up to its hype.

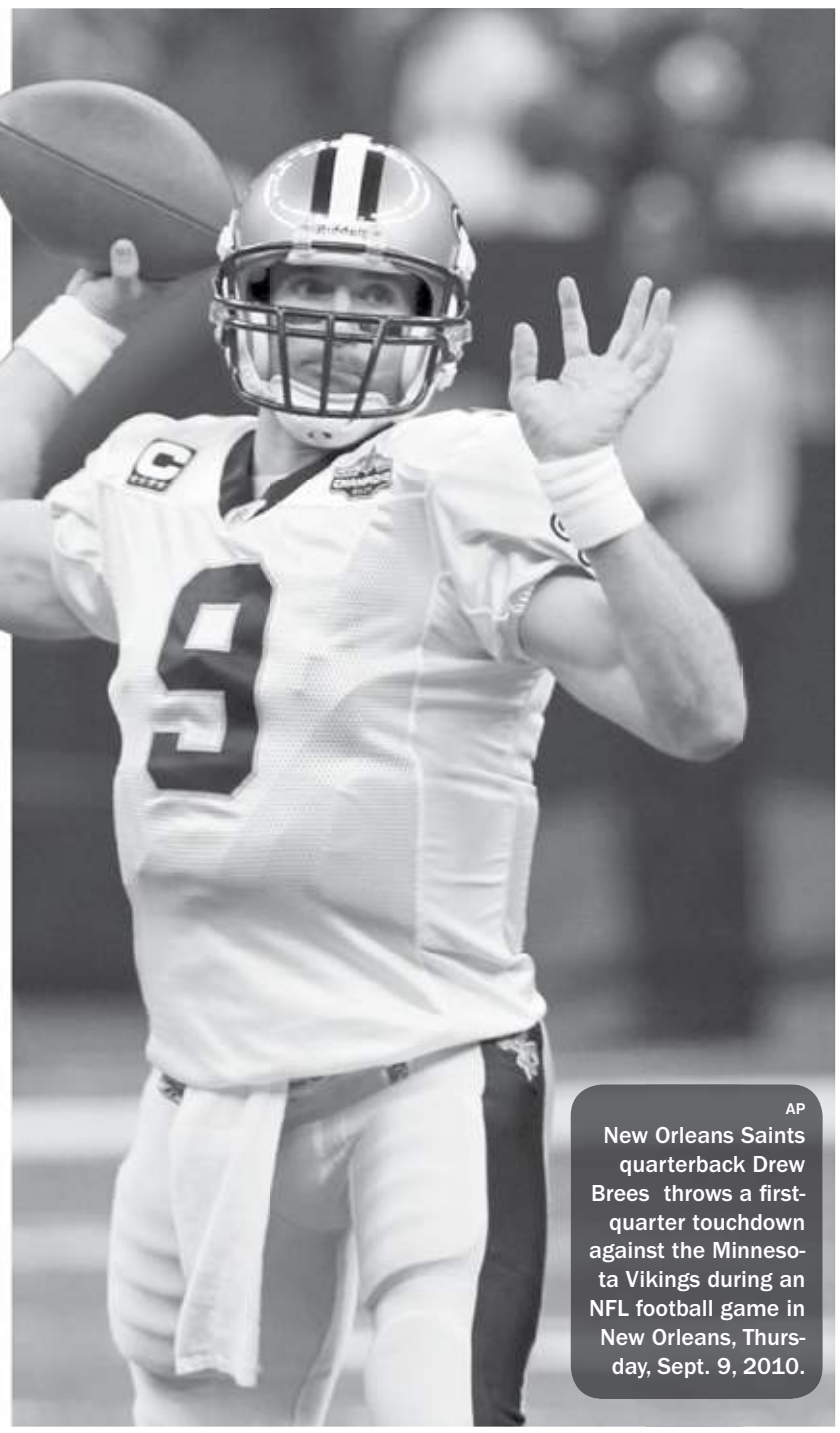
Favre's comeback from ankle surgery, marking the start of his 20th season, was largely unspectacular. Despite being sacked only once and hit not nearly as often, or as hard, as in the NFC title game, he looked out of synch or inaccurate at times. The fact that Minnesota was without star receiver Sidney Rice may have had something to do with that.

"There's three of four throws that I just missed," Favre said. "I have no excuse. I just missed."

Favre's best sequence came on Minnesota's only touchdown drive late in the first half, when he found Vinsanthe Shiancoe on precision down-the-middle completions of 33 and 20 yards, the second for the Vikings' only TD.

That gave Minnesota a 9-7 halftime lead, which the Saints erased on their first drive of the second half.

"We were right where we wanted to be at halftime, then it was three-and-out, three-and-out," Vikings coach Brad Childress said. "There were not a lot of throws to be made downfield. They were going to hold us down and make us bleed slowly."



AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees throws a first-quarter touchdown against the Minnesota Vikings during an NFL football game in New Orleans, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010.

The Saints' triumph ended a long day of festivities which for some might have been more exciting than the game itself.

Tailgaters were setting up around the Superdome at dawn, and one pregame cookout even doubled as a wedding. Some government offices, business and schools shut down.

NFL-sponsored pregame festivities included a concert in the French Quarter featuring Dave Matthews and Taylor Swift, along with a Mardi Gras-style parade, for which police estimated the crowd at about 200,000.

Shortly before kickoff, singer and New Orleans native Harry Connick Jr. entered the Superdome on a parade float with a giant replica of the silver Vince Lombardi Trophy. Also on the float was Saints owner Tom Benson, holding the real trophy.

As Connick finished the first verse of, "When the Saints Go Marching In," a black championship banner was unfurled from the roof of the dome and Saints players streamed out of the tunnel to sustained and boisterous applause.

Shortly before kickoff, Brees stood on the 30-yard line, holding a fist up high before pumping his arm down in an orchestrated move to send the sellout crowd of 70,051 into a chants of: "Who dat say dey gonna' beat dem Saints!"

Soon after, the Saints received the opening kickoff and scored on only five plays, with Brees hitting three of his first four passes for 69 yards, including a 29-yard scoring strike to Devery Henderson on a rollout.

Minnesota made it 7-3 on Ryan Longwell's 41-yard field goal in the second quarter and the Vikings defense stifled Brees and the Saints in the second quarter, allowing only 7 yards. New Orleans' only scoring threat in the quarter came after Vilma's interception at the Vikings 34, but Hartley missed a 46-yard field goal.

The Saints quickly regained their stride on their first drive of the second half, going 74 yards in 11 plays, capped by Thomas' 1-yard TD plunge up the middle. That turned out that was all the scoring the Saints needed.

Nadal beats Verdasco to reach semifinals

NEW YORK (AP)—At the start, Rafael Nadal would say later, he was "scared" by the wind.

He actually lost a service game. After one error, he slapped himself on the thigh. After another, he put his hands on his hips and stared at the spot where his shot went awry.

By the end, Nadal was as good as ever, even hitting a spinning, no-look, half-volley as he moved one step closer to the only Grand Slam title he hasn't won.

The top-seeded Nadal quickly figured out how to handle the wind that has plagued the tournament, got his serve in gear after being broken for the only time in five matches, and beat No. 8 Fernando Verdasco 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 Thursday night in the first all-Spanish quarterfinal in U.S. Open history.

Now Nadal heads to a third consecutive semifinal at Flushing Meadows. He lost in that round to Andy Murray in 2008, and to eventual champion Juan Martin del Potro in 2009; he never has been to a U.S. Open final.

"Right now, for me, it's a very, very nice feeling to be in (the) semifinals for the third time in a row, for one of the most important tournaments in the world," Nadal said in an on-court interview. "For me, probably right now, the most important."

That's because he is trying to complete a career Grand Slam at age 24 by earning a U.S. Open trophy to put alongside the eight total he owns from the French Open, Wimbledon and Australian Open.

On Saturday, Nadal will face 12th-seeded Mikhail Youzhny of Russia for a spot in the final.

"For me, being in the semifinals is amazing," Nadal said, "but I have to keep going and keep playing better if I really want to have chances to be in the finals."

In Saturday's other semifinal, No. 2 Roger Federer will face No. 3 Novak Djokovic; they won their quarterfinals Wednesday. Federer owns a record 16 Grand Slam titles, including five at the U.S. Open, and has faced Nadal in at least one final at each of the three other major tournaments.

"For sure, Roger is the favorite," said Nadal, who has won his last 19 Grand Slam matches, including titles in 2010 at the French Open and Wimbledon.

As was the case for many matches in recent days, the wind was swirling inside Arthur Ashe Stadium. During Nadal's 11th victory in 11 career matchups against Davis Cup teammate Verdasco, it regularly topped 15 mph, with gusts reaching 25 mph, and the temperature—consistently in the 90s in Week 1—dipped to 65 degrees.

"I started very scared, when I was playing with the wind, and against the wind, too," Nadal said. "I was playing too aggressive, because I was scared."

Neither player seemed pleased by the conditions, and Verdasco looked up at his guest box in the second game after hitting one of his six double-faults.

"It was very difficult even to make the toss of the ball," Verdasco would say later.

In the third game, he played some terrific sliding, stretching defense during a 20-stroke exchange he capped with a backhand passing winner to earn a break point. He converted that - ending Nadal's streak of consecutive holds in New York at 62. But Verdasco never got another chance to really rattle Nadal, who has won all 15 sets he's played at this U.S. Open and 76 of 77 games he's served.

In the very early going, Verdasco played the brand of point-extending, opponent-dispiriting defense that Nadal is so well-known for. But Nadal broke back to get to 4-all, thanks to Verdasco's two double-faults in a row, and suddenly was seeming more and more comfortable.

Nadal broke Verdasco for a second time in the last game of the opening set thanks to a volley winner at the end of a 20-stroke exchange. By late in the third set, Nadal was pulling out all the tricks, even that spectacular half-volley when he put the racket on the ball with his back to the net.

Youzhny's only previous trip to the semifinals at any Grand Slam tournament came at the 2006 U.S. Open, and he made it there by upsetting Nadal in the quarterfinals.

"It's another time, and I'm, like, another player," Youzhny said. "I cannot say I am (a) better player now, but it's another time and other opponent, so everything can happen."

He hit fewer aces and fewer winners, needed treatment on his right foot in the fifth set—and still managed to come back and beat No. 25 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland 3-6, 7-6 (7), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in four hours earlier Thursday.

"Maybe I was just a bit luckier than him," Youzhny said.

The last time Nadal and Verdasco met at a Grand Slam tournament, in the 2009 Australian Open semifinals, they set a tournament record by playing for 5 hours, 14 minutes. Thursday's match lasted less than 2 1/2 hours, in part because Nadal played so cleanly, making only 16 unforced errors; Verdasco made 41.

Verdasco called it "impossible" to play the aggressive tactics he needs to use "to have chances to beat Rafa."

The outcome basically was settled in the sixth game of the second set, when Nadal broke to lead 4-2 with a delicate-as-can-be drop volley that Verdasco barely reached and couldn't get in play. Nadal jumped and punched the air and had to know there was no longer any chance of the sort of upset Youzhny pulled off four years ago.

Nothing seemed to rattle Youzhny on Thursday. He dealt with a deficit, a problem with his right foot, and the wind that made it tough to control strokes—Wawrinka made 71 unforced errors, Youzhny 57. That helped Youzhny overcome Wawrinka's advantages in aces (13-2) and winners (48-35). Both men won 154 points.

Huff, Posey lead Giants' homer barrage

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Aubrey Huff and Buster Posey each hit a two-run homer as the San Francisco Giants beat San Diego 7-3 Thursday night to pull within one game of the NL West-leading Padres.

Matt Cain took a three-hitter into the ninth in the opener of the four-game showdown between the rivals, who also will meet in a season-ending, three-game series at San Francisco from Oct. 1-3. San Francisco is one behind Atlanta in the wild-card race.

Cain (11-10) allowed David Eckstein's leadoff single in the ninth followed by Ryan Ludwick's homer to straightaway center, leading manager Bruce Bochy to turn to Javier Lopez and Ramon Ramirez to finish. Cain struck out eight and walked one.

It was the Giants' third win in 12 games against San Diego this season. The Giants have two more losses than the Padres, who have played two fewer games than San Francisco.

San Francisco has won eight of 11 while the Padres have lost 11 of 14.

Jon Garland (13-11) allowed six runs and eight hits in five innings for San Diego.

Cardinals 11, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Colby Rasmus hit a pair of homers, Albert Pujols and Skip Schumaker also connected, and Adam Wainwright bounced back from a shaky first inning to lead the Cardinals to the win.

The Braves, aiming to turn things around after a poor road trip knocked them out of first place in the NL East, jumped ahead 3-0 in the first inning. But the Cardinals rocked Jair Jurrjens (7-5) for five runs in the second—capped by Schumaker's two-out, two-run drive—and Atlanta took its sixth loss in eight games.

Rasmus went 4 for 4 and drove in four runs, matching his career high in both categories.

Atlanta dropped a full game behind idle Philadelphia in the NL East. The Cardinals won for just the fifth time in 16 games and trail first-place Cincinnati by five games in the NL Central.

Wainwright (18-10) gave up three runs and seven hits in eight innings.

Rockies 6, Reds 5

At Denver, Chris Nelson stole home in the eighth inning to send the Rockies to the four-game series sweep and their season-best seventh consecutive victory.

With one out and runners on the corners, Nelson broke for home before Nick Masset (3-4) threw his first pitch to Miguel Olivo. Inexplicably, Masset stepped off the mound, whirled to his left and toward second base.

Nelson scored easily to give the Rockies a 6-5 lead. He became the first player to take home for his first career steal since Dan Uggla of the Florida Marlins accomplished the feat on April 21, 2006, against the Philadelphia Phillies, according to STATS LLC.

Masset said he came set, stepped off the mound and initially thought Melvin Mora was going to second. He called it "a complete mistake" on his part.

Jason Giambi and Troy Tulowitzki homered for Colorado, which trailed 5-0 after two innings. Tulowitzki's tying leadoff drive in the eighth was his 18th homer and sixth in seven games.

Drew Stubbs hit a two-run shot in Cincinnati's four-run second.

Matt Belisle (7-5) recorded two outs to get win and Huston Street worked the ninth for his 17th save in 21 opportunities.

Astros 3, Dodgers 2

At Houston, rookie Chris Johnson hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning as the Astros rallied to get the victory.

Johnson, who struck out in his first two at-bats, drove a full-count pitch from Ted Lilly (8-10) to the train tracks in left field for his eight homer, erasing a two-run deficit. Hunter Pence singled to extend his hitting streak to 10 games and Carlos Lee walked to set up Johnson's one-out drive.

AP

San Francisco Giants' Buster Posey, left, rounds the bases after a two-run home run as San Diego Padres starting pitcher Jon Garland reacts during the fifth inning of a baseball game in San Diego, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010.

Bud Norris (7-8) struck out seven in six innings for Houston, which has won three straight.

Andre Ethier hit a two-run homer in the first inning for the Dodgers, who have dropped six straight and eight of nine.

Tigers 6, Chicago 3

At Detroit, Johnny Damon had a season-high four hits as the Detroit Tigers beat Chicago to hand the White Sox their third straight loss.

The White Sox (77-63) fell six games behind idle Minnesota in the AL Central, their largest deficit since June 17.

Rick Porcello (9-11) gave up three runs and four hits in eight innings to win his fourth straight start. Ryan Perry pitched the ninth for his second save.

Gavin Floyd (10-12) allowed six runs over six innings. He gave up 13 hits, all of them singles.

Alex Rios hit a two-run homer for Chicago in the fourth.

Ryan Raburn and Jhonny Peralta each had two RBIs as the Tigers won for the ninth time in 10 games at Comerica Park, where they are 46-26.

Rangers 4, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Colby Lewis won for the first time since mid-July and Mitch Moreland drove in three runs to lead Texas to the victory.

The Rangers, who lead the AL West, won their second straight after losing nine of 12.

Vladimir Guerrero went 3 for 4 and scored twice for Texas.

Toronto's Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 44th homer, a solo shot off Darren O'Day in the eighth. Lyle Overbay hit a solo homer off Lewis in the seventh, his 18th.

The Blue Jays lead the majors with 218 homers this season, including a major league-high 122 at home.

Lewis (10-12) was sharp over 6 1-3 innings, allowing one run and five hits.

Shawn Hill (0-1) pitched 5 1-3 innings for Toronto, yielding four runs, three earned, and eight hits.

Kuchar atop the leaderboard again with 64

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Already having his best season, Matt Kuchar got off to his best start of the year Thursday in the BMW Championship. A mystery season for Tiger Woods took another unexpected turn.

Kuchar, who won the opening FedEx Cup playoff event to position himself for the $10 million bonus, wasted no time putting his name atop the leaderboard. He finished with an 18-foot birdie putt for a 7-under 64 and a one-shot lead over Ryan Moore.

Ian Poulter of England, who has finished in the top 10 only once since winning the Match Play Championship in February, had a 66 for the best round of the afternoon despite opening with a double bogey.

Woods also started with a double bogey, but he never got those shots back.

With one last bogey on the 18th hole, he wound up with a 73 to leave himself in a big hole as he tries to advance to the final stage of the playoffs in Atlanta. It was his highest round at Cog Hill since he opened with a 73 in the 2005 Western Open. It also ended a streak of 11 consecutive rounds in the 60s on the

BMW Championship

public course in the Chicago suburbs where he has won five times.

Woods should be used to rough starts by now. His scoring average in the first round this year is 71.08, compared with 68.9 a year ago in the same tournaments.

Even so, it was peculiar to hear him discuss how much ground he has to make up—not against Kuchar, but the finish he needs to get into the top 30 in the FedEx Cup standings and advance to the Tour Championship.

"As of right now, I'm only five shots back out of that spot," Woods said. "That's not bad."

Everything is good with Kuchar at the moment, except his voice. He is playing so well—a winner at The Barclays, a tour-high 10 finishes in the top 10 this year—that there's really nothing left for him to say.

Not that he had a choice. Kuchar has laryngitis and begged off a series of interviews, letting his score speak for itself. It was the second-best start of his career, and the 21st time in 23 events this year that he broke par in the opening round.

"Just keep playing," Kuchar said to one question he felt good enough to answer. "I was driving it well. I was actually doing everything well. It felt very good. Last week was a little bit suspect, and this week I kind of figured some stuff out."

Something clicked for Moore when he least expected it.

Dressed in a black sweater and white golf shirt, with a tie hung loosely around his neck, Moore was 1 over for the round and in a bunker on the 11th. He holed that out for birdie, hit 3-iron to 5 feet for birdie, and after a par, finished with five straight birdies.

"I certainly wasn't expecting to do that," Moore said. "I hit a horrible tee shot on 11 with an even worse layup, and then I hit a terrible shot from there into a bunker and then holed out. I don't know. Just got a little positive momentum going from there."

Poulter had to find some quickly. He hit his opening tee shot to the right on the 10th hole, put his approach into a front bunker and then caught that clean and sent it over the green. He missed a 4-foot putt and took double bogey, although it helped that it's about a 250-yard walk to the next tee.

"Nice first round," he said. "Not a very nice first hole, mind you."

Retief Goosen and Charlie Wi were at 67, while the group at 68 included Dustin Johnson, Luke Donald and Justin Rose.

Phil Mickelson, not a fan of Cog Hill, ended with a bogey on the par-5 ninth hole for a 72. Mickelson swapped out playing in the pro-am to do a corporate function, and instead played Butler National on Wednesday, which he raved about.

He was asked if it was harder to play a course for which he has little affection.

"Yes," he replied.

Woods feels the opposite, although that was hard to tell by the way he played. He began by hitting a poor bunker shot, an even worse chip and a bad putt for a double bogey. He missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the ninth. With an iron into the par-5 15th, he hit it well left into a tree and had to settle for par.

"I just didn't have much today," Woods said.

He also was nine shots behind in 2005 when he opened with a 73, and Woods wound up in second place two shots behind. But he was a little more predictable back then. What gave Woods hope is that despite such calm conditions, no one went lower than 64.

"Guys aren't going low at this place because the greens aren't good enough to go low," he said. "Obviously, there's a couple of players that have played well today, but overall, the guys just aren't tearing the place apart."

Woods is No. 51 in the standings, and the top 30 make it to the Tour Championship. He likely needs to finish around fifth place this week to go to East Lake in Atlanta.

The good fortune of Andres Romero appears to have run out. The Argentine birdied four of his last five holes at The Barclays to narrowly advance to the second round, and he tied for 11th in Boston to make it to the third round. He is No. 68 in the standings, but made five bogeys in six holes to start his round and shot 80.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	53	.621	_
Tampa Bay	84	55	.604	2 1/2
Boston	78	62	.557	9
Toronto	72	68	.514	15
Baltimore	53	87	.379	34

Central Division

Minnesota	83	57	.593	_
Chicago	77	63	.550	6
Detroit	71	70	.504	12Ω
Kansas City	57	82	.410	25 1/2
Cleveland	57	83	.407	26

West Division

Texas	77	63	.550	_
Oakland	69	70	.496	7 1/2
Los Angeles	67	73	.479	10
Seattle	55	85	.393	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	81	60	.574	_
Atlanta	80	61	.567	1
Florida	70	69	.504	10
New York	69	71	.493	11 1/2
Washington	60	80	.429	20 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	79	61	.564	_
St. Louis	73	65	.529	5
Houston	67	73	.479	12
Milwaukee	65	74	.468	13 1/2
Chicago	60	80	.429	19
Pittsburgh	47	92	.338	31 1/2

West Division

San Diego	79	60	.568	_
San Francisco	79	62	.560	1
Colorado	76	64	.543	3 1/2
Los Angeles	69	72	.489	11
Arizona	57	83	.407	22 1/2

Yesterdayís Games

Colorado 6, Cincinnati 5
St. Louis 11, Atlanta 4
Houston 3, L.A. Dodgers 2
San Francisco 7, San Diego 3
Detroit 6, Chicago White Sox 3
Texas 4, Toronto 2

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

LEMONT, Illinois (AP)–Scores Thursday at the BMW Championship, a $7.5 million PGA tournament at the par-71, 7,616-yard Dubsdread Course at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club:

FIRST ROUND

Matt Kuchar	33-31–64
Ryan Moore	36-29–65
Ian Poulter	34-32–66
Retief Goosen	33-34–67
Charlie Wi	34-33–67
Justin Rose	34-34–68
Luke Donald	35-33–68
Dustin Johnson	33-35–68
Brian Gay	34-34–68
Rory Sabbatini	38-31–69
Paul Casey	35-34–69
Vijay Singh	35-35–70
Kevin Na	34-36–70
Tom Gillis	36-34–70
Vaughn Taylor	37-33–70
Charley Hoffman	35-35–70
Camilo Villegas	37-33–70
Anthony Kim	35-35–70
David Toms	37-33–70
Nick Watney	37-33–70
Bill Haas	34-36–70
Tim Clark	33-37–70
Ernie Els	34-36–70
Zach Johnson	35-35–70
Steve Stricker	33-37–70
Stewart Cink	34-36–70
Matt Jones	35-36–71
Heath Slocum	36-35–71
Rickie Fowler	34-37–71
Kevin Streelman	40-31–71
Adam Scott	34-37–71
Hunter Mahan	34-37–71
K.J. Choi	37-34–71
Marc Leishman	37-35–72
Bo Van Pelt	35-37–72
Jeff Overton	36-36–72
Carl Pettersson	35-37–72
Greg Chalmers	38-34–72
Justin Leonard	38-34–72
Robert Allenby	37-35–72
Bubba Watson	37-35–72
Jason Day	35-37–72
Phil Mickelson	37-35–72
Michael Sim	36-36–72
Brian Davis	37-36–73
Geoff Ogilvy	38-35–73
Martin Laird	36-37–73
Y.E. Yang	34-39–73
Jason Bohn	37-36–73
Jim Furyk	36-37–73
Ryan Palmer	37-36–73
Tiger Woods	38-35–73
Ricky Barnes	34-39–73
Tim Petrovic	39-34–73
Brendon de Jonge	37-37–74
Fredrik Jacobson	37-37–74
Stephen Ames	37-37–74
Bryce Molder	38-36–74
John Senden	39-35–74
Jason Dufner	34-40–74
Angel Cabrera	37-38–75
Sean O'Hair	37-38–75
D.J. Trahan	39-36–75
Brandt Snedeker	37-39–76
Scott Verplank	39-37–76
Stuart Appleby	38-38–76
Rory McIlroy	40-36–76
Ben Crane	38-38–76
J.B. Holmes	38-39–77
Andres Romero	39-41–80

BY THE ASSOCIATE PRESS

HOON

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first round in singles and moved to the Round of 32 in doubles on both occasions. In Fiji, Heo and teammate Alex Hamilton of New Zealand ruled he doubles event and the former qualified in the Round of 16 in singles. The CNMI netter marched into the quarterfinals of another singles tournament in Fiji.

"I feel much more confident now after the Oceania Pole and the series of tournaments I had. Hopefully, some players from Saipan can join the team next year and have the same opportunity I had in New Caledonia and in Australia.

Heo missed the chance to play for the CNMI in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau when he opted to compete in New Caledonia and Australia. However, he hopes he can return to Saipan during school break and represent the Commonwealth in future regional events.

SIS

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ond shot clock ticking drove to the basket and missed. He collared the rebound and muffed the shot again, but he got another rebound and finally made the basket, giving SIS a 97-94 led, with less than 20 seconds left in the game.

Trailing by three, NMBA's Mendiola inbounded the ball anew, but his outlet pass was intercepted. After the steal, SIS worked the clock well, avoiding NMBA defenders who tried to give up preemptive fouls, but failed, preserving the former's win.

NMBA boosted its chances to enter the win column when it led by 19 at halftime, 38-57. Manny Matagolai, Jessie Mina, and Rex Yabut led NMBA's furious attack in the second canto, combining for 30 of the team's 34 points.

However, NMBA was too lax in the second half, allowing SIS to recover. Yabut sat out the parts of the third period, while Matagolai babied several easy layups and missed leisurely taken jumpers. Mina and Matagolai scored only two points apiece in the third period, which ended with NMBA ahead by only five, 70-65.

A 10-0 start in the fourth quarter sparked by Galarse put SIS in the lead, 75-70, so it was NMBA's turn to comeback and fell short. Galarse top-scored for SIS with 31 points.

It was the same story in the Cavite-SIP duel with the former coming back from a 12-point deficit in the third quarter.

John Artates scored five straight points in the last two minutes of the game to grab momentum from the stunned SIP team and then Cavite sealed the win from the free throw line.

Artates first canned a triple, giving Cavite a 98-95 lead. He then made a steal off SIP's inbound play and made an acrobatic 2-pointer in the paint for Cavite's 100-95 cushion, 1:22 left on the clock.

SIP tried to recover the lead, but failed, as Cavite drilled five pressure-packed free throws that were enough to complete its come-from-behind win. Artates and Tim Wesley had one charity each and Francis Rebuyon converted three. SIP knocked in only two charities with Marvin Rabauliman having a split and sure shot Jun Estolas uncharacteristically hitting only 1-for-4 from the stripe.

Mobil went up by as much as 12 in the second quarter, 47-35, but Cavite slowly climbed back, leaning on its balance offense. Cavite had five players scoring in double figures with James Villacrusis firing 25 and J.R. Barrios adding 24. Rebuyon chipped in 19 and Artates and William Opone logged 16 apiece.

First Game

SIS /Marianas Wireless 97 – Galarse 31, Hernaez 29, Jugos 12, Banatasa 9, S. Quemado 6, Donorilla 4, K. Quemado 2, Iglecias 2, Wodson 2.

NMBA/Island Apparel 94 – Matagolai 31, Mina 25, Yabut 17, Mendiola 10, Cabrera 9, Tengco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-23, 38-57, 65-70, 97-94

Second Game

Cavite 106 – Villacrusis 25, Barrios 24, Rebuyon 19, Opone 16, Artates 16, Wesley 6.

SIP/Mobil 102 – Rabauliman 19, De Dios 16, Estolas 15, Muleta 13, Gamboa 13, De Guzman 12, Gapor 10, Wenceslao 2, Abuan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-27, 42-49, 69-76, 106-102.

US

From Page 28

Durant made sure there would be no worries at the finish of this one, shooting 11 of 19 while just missing Carmelo Anthony's world championship team record of 35 points set in 2006.

"We're going to go to him," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I've learned in coaching you should get your best player the ball."

The U.S. is now two wins from its first worlds title since 1994 and will play Lithuania on Saturday. Host Turkey and Serbia will play in the other semifinal.

No player on the young American team is old enough to remember that 1972 game—many are barely old enough to remember the Cold War. But Mike Bantom, the NBA's senior vice president of player development, played on that U.S. team and is in Turkey with the Americans.

"I told him today, 'I know nothing's going to bring that back, man, but at least we'll try to make you at least smile today,' " Billups said. "And he was like, 'Yeah, that'd be nice.'"

The U.S. and Russia have met many times since 1972, including a U.S. victory 16 years ago in Toronto that gave the Americans their last world championship. And there isn't much of a rivalry anymore between the nations—the NBA even opened an office in Moscow on Thursday.

But none of the games is as memorable as the clash in Munich, when the Soviets were given a third chance after the Americans stopped them twice in the final 3 seconds, and they eventually scored on the second do-over for a 51-50 victory—the Americans' first Olympic loss after 63 victories.

David Blatt, Russia's American-born coach, reopened some scars that will never heal for members of that U.S. team this week when he said he'd watched a film about the game and believed the outcome was fair.

Krzyzewski responded that, of course, Blatt would have that opinion as a Russian—which Blatt is not. He was born in the United States.

Blatt stuck by his feelings about that game, but said his comments this week were taken out of context and the resulting back-and-forth was just gamesmanship.

"Coach K knows as well as I do that disagreeing or agreeing is generally very American," Blatt said. "We don't all have to see things the same way."

Blatt's team looked poised to deal the Americans more heartbreak, running its attack well in the first half and capitalizing on its size advantage inside to frustrate the U.S.

Then, leading by only five in the third quarter, the Americans finally began forcing the Russians into mistakes, which they turned into transition baskets that finally allowed them to shake free.

Russell Westbrook dunked after a turnover, hit a 3-pointer, came up with a steal and had another dunk to key a decisive 15-5 spurt that pushed the U.S. lead to 65-50. The Oklahoma City guard converted a three-point play to open the scoring in the fourth, and Durant's brilliance from there helped the Americans further extend it in the fourth.

Billups scored 15 points and Westbrook finished with 12, including seven in a row for the Americans when their athleticism finally turned away a Russian team that had the pace to its liking for the first half.

"I think some of us, we kind of started off a little slow and then didn't jump on them early, and tonight that was a big problem for us," Westbrook said. "Then second half, we kind of got into our rhythm."

The Americans finished with a 22-2 advantage in fast-break points and a 20-2 edge in points off turnovers.

Sergey Bykov scored 17 points for Russia, which exceeded expectations in this tournament after coming to the worlds without some of its top talent, most notably Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko, the MVP of their 2007 European championship.

Andrey Vorontsevich had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Timofey Mozgov, recently signed by the New York Knicks, scored 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

The Americans missed 17 of their first 25 shots, rotated too slowly on defense, and were outworked on the boards while trailing for much of the first half.

The U.S. built an early six-point advantage before Mozgov began to control the middle. He hit all four of his shots in the first quarter, twice while getting fouled, and his last basket tied it at 25 heading to the second period.

Russia got the first two baskets of that quarter, starting with an embarrassingly easy drive into the lane for an uncontested layup by Dmitriy Khvostov. The Russians pushed their lead to 35-30 midway through the period on consecutive baskets by Bykov, and only then did the Americans start digging in on defense.

They held Russia without a basket for more than 4 minutes, running off 12 straight points to take a seven-point lead, before going into the locker room ahead 44-39.

The Russians will play in the consolation bracket, still hoping to finish fifth.

Lithuania 104, Argentina 85

At Istanbul, Lithuania advanced to the semifinals of the basketball world championship for the first time, hitting nine of its first 11 three-pointers Thursday to beat Argentina 104-85 and set up a meeting with the United States.

Simas Jasaitis scored 16 points for Lithuania, which had seven players in double digits.

"People thought we were an underdog coming in. The reason we're in this spot right now is because of our team chemistry," said Lithuania guard Martynus, who will face off Saturday against his old coach at Duke Blue Devils, Mike Krzyzewski.

Lithuania forward Linas Kleiza scored 17 points, while guard Tomas Delininkaitis and Pocius had 16 each.

Carlos Delfino of the Milwaukee Bucks scored 25 for Argentina, which missed its first 11 3-point atempts.

The defeat means Argentina won't finish in the top four at the worlds, Olympics or FIBA Americas Championship for the first time since 2000.

"This game tonight there was only one team on the court: Lithuania," Argentina coach Sergio Hernandez said. "They killed Argentina with defense, they ran the floor well and shot well. We could not stop them at any time."

Argentina forward Luis Scola entered averaging 30.3 points a game—the third highest in worlds history—but turned in a forgettable performance, showing none of the form he displayed in scoring 10 of his team's final 12 points in a 93-89 win over Brazil on Tuesday.

The Houston Rockets player missed seven of his first 10 attempts to finish with 13 points.

Lithuania used an 8-0 run to jump ahead 17-10 with precise shooting, tenacious defense and crisp ball movement. The team were ahead 50-30 at halftime and built its lead to 32 points before Argentina was able to cut it to 17 late in the game.

ROTARY

From Page 28

back with the kick-off day to wait for confirmation from one more team.

"To date, we have eight teams confirmed and we are awaiting confirmation from one more team before finalizing the schedule," Rangamar said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Leading the teams competing in the U19 division of the youth caging are last year's Rotary league pennant champions and runners-up G-Stars. Joining them are the Rollers I and II, Agape, Sonics, Hi-5, Ol'Aces, and Kagman. Missing in the list is last year's champion San Antonio Sixers, who defeated the G-Stars in the finals, 55-54.

Besides the U19 division, this year's Rotary caging will also have competitions in the U15 division. BANMI has yet to release names of teams vying for the U15 crown, but in previous meetings, four teams had expressed an interest in joining the division. They were Rollers, Ol'Aces, Hopwood Junior High School, and the G-Stars.

BANMI needed to create two divisions in this year's Rotary caging in line with the program of the revived Micronesian Basketball Confederation.

MBC will be conducting age groups competitions in the region in the next four years and BANMI is planning to form a pool of players from the Rotary caging for these tournaments.

Next year, the CNMI is scheduled to compete in a U15 tournament in the Western Division of Micronesian Basketball Tournament and will battle host Palau, Guam, and Yap. The Eastern Division, composed of Republic of Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk, will have their own tournament in Pohnpei.

In 2012, the Western Division tournament will have its U17 tournament, which CNMI will be hosting. The Marshall Islands will host the Eastern tournament in the same year, while Guam will be the venue for the regional MBT.

In 2013, another U15 tournament is scheduled for the East and West divisions. There will also be a U19 regional in 2013, while the U17 tournaments will take place again in 2014 before the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

For more information about the Rotary league, contact Rangamar at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

Brees, Saints survive tough opener vs. Vikes 14-9
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Huff, Posey lead Giants' homer barrage
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Ji Hoon getting ready for college

Ji Hoon Heo is now in Hawaii and waiting to play for the Hawaii Pacific University in the Pacific West Conference of the NCAA Division II.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With his summer tour now over, Ji Hoon Heo is currently preparing for college tennis with the Hawaii Pacific University.

"I am in Hawaii now and doing good. We haven't started official team practices but then we are practicing individually, weekly hitting with some of our teammates. Our team is very international as we have people from New Zealand, Saipan, Latvia, Germany, Austria, Singapore, Australia, Sweden, and of course Hawaii," Heo said.

HPU is an NCAA Division II school and the Green Warriors are competing in the Pacific West Conference against Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Chaminade University, University of Hawaii-Hilo, Grand Canyon University, Notre Dame de Namur, Dixie State College, Academy of Art, and Dominican.

"We will start practice in October or the last week of September. NCAA has rules about how long we can practice, so practice is a bit limited. But still, I am training by myself, going to the gym, and running in the morning. I am doing exercises I learned in New Caledonia every morning and trying to keep my routine," the 19-year-old CNMI junior netter said.

Before going to Hawaii, Heo left Saipan in July to train in New Caledonia under the Oceania Pole program and compete in tournaments in Fiji and Australia. In his summer tour, Heo managed to climb to as high as No. 442 in the Junior ITF world rankings. The CNMI netter was ranked between 1,000 and 1,500 when he started joining the Junior ITF.

"My summer was real good. Training in the Oceania Pole was excellent. With the help of Philippe, Gerard, Sebastien, and Patrick, I was able to get my ranking up to 442 but I think I could have gotten more points in Australia if I didn't sprain my ankle," Heo said.

In New Caledonia, Heo made it to as far as the quarterfinal round in the singles to earn Junior ITF points. In two tournaments in Australia, he lost in the

See HOON on Page 27

USA's Kevin Durant, top, puts up a shot as Russia's Andrey Vorontsevich defends during the quarterfinal round at the World Basketball Championship, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010, in Istanbul, Turkey.
AP

US beats Russia to move into semis at FIBA Worlds

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

ISTANBUL (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 33 points to help the United States beat Russia 89-79 on Thursday to move into the semifinals at the world championship.

It was the 38th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over the Americans for an Olympic gold medal, a game with such a controversial ending that the U.S. players refused to accept their silver medals.

In 1972, the U.S. team led by 1 point when officials ordered the final 3 seconds of the match be replayed. The Soviets scored in that time, causing the Americans to boycott the medal ceremony.

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SIS, Cavite eke out comeback victories

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Comebacks were the theme in last Thursday night's games in 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League at the JP Center Basketball Court.

In the curtain raiser, Samahang Ilonggo sa Saipan/Marianas Wireless recovered from a 19-point deficit to pull off a 97-94 triumph over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association/Island Apparel.

In the second game, Cavite stole the driver's seat from Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense/Mobil in the last two minutes en route to a 106-102 victory.

Cavite gained its second straight win and improved to a 3-2 record. SIP absorbed its third consecutive loss and has only two victories with one game left in the regular season.

SIS tied SIP's mark to share fourth place, while NMBA remained winless in three games.

Angelo Hernaez and Rusty Doronilla scored the crucial points in SIS' three-point win, while NMBA bungled its chances to notch its first win after committing a couple of errors and giving up offensive rebounds in the homestretch

Hernaez's split free throw, broke the deadlock, 95-94, with less than a minute left on the clock. Then in the NMBA inbound play, Dexter Mendiola passed the ball to Jomar Tengco, who was heading toward their frontcourt thus the leather hit his back and rolled out to the baseline.

When SIS regained possession, Doronila with the 24-sec-

See SIS on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
SIS/Marianas Wireless' Rusty Doronilla goes up for off-balance layup against NMBA/Island Apparel's Dexter Mendiola, left, and Jomar Tengco during their UFO caging game Friday night at the J.P. Center Basketball Court.

Rotary caging opening moved to Monday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's youth players excited to see action in the modified 18th Annual Rotary Club Youth Basketball League have to wait for a few more days after organizers moved the caging's opening date to Monday.

Elias Rangamar, president of the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, which is organizing the youth caging, said they had to push

See ROTARY on Page 27

The G-Stars' Joseph Jung pulls up for a jumper against the Ol'Aces' West Tomokane during their game in last year's Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Both the Ol'Aces and G-Stars are back for this year's youth caging, which will open on Monday.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO